THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above 14,000 copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, *68 Wall Street, or No. 823 Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

THE MONTH'S WORK.

Subjoined is a statement of the disbursements made by the Commission, during the month of May, for the national forces in Virginia. It will be seen that of $328,351, there has been expended in cash drawn from the Central Treasury $236,349, or over two-thirds of the total amount. And it must be remembered, too, that this is for the relief of only one of our armies. It does not include any portion of the outlay incurred on behalf of General Sherman's army in Georgia, or on behalf of General Banks's army in Mississippi. Nor does it include the expenses of the "Homes" and "Lodges" scattered all over the country, nor of the work of sanitary inspection. It has, in fact, been called forth by the sick and wounded of the forces in Virginia, and during only the opening month of what promises to be a long and bloody campaign.

We call attention to these facts for the benefit of those—and their name is legion—who are possessed with the belief, that, inasmuch as the Commission has received a million and a half from the fairs, it has now money enough, and the tide of public charity may be turned in some other direction. A quarter of a million is gone in Virginia alone in four weeks. At this rate, the fund now in the treasury, or likely to come into it, would not nearly meet all the wants of General Grant's army only between now and the first of November, for we are constantly forced into extending the field of our operations. There is constantly a vast deal of suffering which the Medical Department cannot prevent, and which we, let us be ever so well supported by the country, cannot nearly relieve.

On a subsequent page of the present number will be found a statement in detail of the issues of supplies in Virginia during the month of May, as well as of the anti-scorbutic stores, now on hand, that have been forwarded to our depots in Maryland and Virginia. About the latter we will only say, that they fall very far short of meeting the call upon them. One of the greatest dangers with which the army has to contend, is the scorbutic tendencies created by the want of vegetables. We have so often set forth in these pages the effects upon the soldier's health and efficiency, and his recuperative power when wounded, of the scorbutic taint, that it is not necessary that we should now go over the ground again. But we must once more earnestly appeal to the public for contributions of onions and potatoes. It is safe to say that every barrel of either of these vegetables forwarded to us may be the means of saving a life. With such a vast extent of fertile soil as is at the command of two-thirds of our population, there ought to be no difficulty in obtaining more of these things than we can possibly use. Will, therefore, everybody who has either a garden or a farm, remember that a very small patch of it may, by a very small amount of labor, be made to rescue a soldier from death?

—

Statement of Disbursements during the month of May, 1864, for the National Forces in Virginia:

Supplies.		
Amount paid for purchases at—		
New York	$57,942 38	
Washington	28,758 58	
Baltimore	48,404 64	$130,105.60
Distribution.		
Expenses, including subsistence, transportation and compensation, of over two hundred Relief Corps Agents; forage for horses; materials necessary for the work of agents		17,150 17
Horses, Wagons, and Harness,		
Amount paid for		31,755 43
Transportation.		
Amount paid for Charter—		
Steamer "Kent," 20 days, to June 1st	$4,500 00	
Steamer "J. B. Thompson," 27 days, to June 1st	3,375 00	
Steamer "Mary Rapley," 24 days to June 1st	2,400 00	
Steamer "Phœnix," 7¾ days, to June 1st	690 00	
Barge "Washington," — days to June 1st	420 00	
Schooner "Ridley," 15 days, to June 1st	300 00	
Steamer "Gov. Curtin," 8 days, to June 1st	800 00	
Barge "Hoboken," 10 days, to June 1st	275 00	
Coal, labor, &c.	2,373 21	15,133 21
Special Relief.		
Amount during the month		4,206 80
Estimated value of additional supplies contributed to the Commission and issued to the Army in Eastern Virginia		130,000 00
Total,		$328,351 21

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The following letter has been addressed to the editor of the *Washington Chronicle*, by Mr. Knapp, our Associate Secretary:

My attention has been called to the tone of exaggeration in which some persons speak of the work of the Sanitary Commission, as if the Commission was doing everything and the Government nothing for the wounded soldiers. These statements do not emanate from, nor are they endorsed by the Sanitary Commission. On the contrary, while the Commission records, and is glad to be able to record, the aid it has rendered to the wounded, and while it seeks by public reports to assure the people that it is alive and worthy the trust placed in its hands, it is never found depreciating the vastly greater service rendered by the Government, through the regular channels of aid and supply.

The Sanitary Commission gives no countenance to that tone of wholesale denunciation in which "visitors" to the army speak of the neglect and utter delinquency of public officers in caring for the wounded. The Commission sees what it considers defects, and it is forced to recognize in individual officers and on specified occasions what it believes to be delinquencies and neglect, and the suffering consequent; but it also sees and recognizes, as few others can, the immense labor which devolves upon the Medical Department in times like these, and the immense work which is done. It realizes, as others may not, that the transporting of twenty-five thousand wounded men from the battle-field to distant hospitals, involves unavoidable delays and suffering; especially when, as now, the army is moving rapidly forward, with a frequent change of base, compelling, as a "military necessity," the instant transportation of wounded from the vicinity of previously occupied fields to general hospitals, no matter how severe may be the wounds, or how impassable the roads, or how deficient

the means of transportation at command. No man who has not been upon the ground, and day after day seen the labor to be undergone, and the difficulties to be met, can form the slightest idea of the terrific work laid upon the medical officers after a great battle.

Sometimes at a single wharf, as was the case at Belle Plain, a business equal to that of a city of fifty thousand inhabitants has to be carried on. There are the Quartermasters and the Commissaries, with their crowds of boats and immense stores, wagons in trains a mile long pushing in from the shore, and impatiently waiting to be loaded; re-enforcements, five to ten thousand men in one single day, arriving to be disembarked and moved forward to the battle-field; prisoners, by the thousands also, to be brought down to the boats under guard; and meantime, with it all, at this same wharf must place and time be found for receiving the wounded as they are brought in, two or three hundred ambulances and wagons at once, followed immediately by as many more—with a crowd of those men, who with wounds less severe, have walked in with slow steps from corps and division hospitals. This is a mere outline sketch, to be filled in with the breaking down of wagons on shore, blocking whole trains; tearing up the corduroy roads, opening thus the way to mud and quicksands; the arrival of unexpected wounded, and non-arrival of expected boats; the rush, and moving to and fro of these masses of men and teams and stores; the slow, cautious handling upon stretchers, borne down in long file, of men with amputated limbs or terrible wounds; the feeding of the hungry and trying to alleviate their sufferings; all this continued by night the same as by day, through the darkness and the rain. A person who has never been in the midst of all this, and who has not repeatedly been in the midst of all this, has no power and no *right* to judge of what the officers of the medical and of other departments are doing. Still less power or right to judge and criticise belong to the individual who with excited feelings of philanthropy goes from some quiet home of his own down to the "front," expecting by a week's work of humane and irresponsible labor to set everything to rights and relieve all suffering. To such a man the whole scene is, of course, confusion and neglect and ruin, while in reality it is simply WAR, with what in a great measure are its unavoidable consequences. The Sanitary Commission knows from long acquaintance with such scenes the work which the Medical Department has to do, and the embarrassments under which it labors.

With a steady hand in its own assigned place does the Commission seek to co-operate with the Medical Department. All the employees of the Commission are instructed not to criticise but to work; and to work subjecting themselves to military rule. So far as I know, a spirit of cordial good-will is felt by all the officers and real workers of the Commission in the field for the medical staff, with whom they have direct relations.

The Sanitary Commission in proper place and in authorized manner does not hesitate to point out the deficiences and neglects which it sees. It seeks honestly and earnestly to secure needed reforms; it advocates constantly what it constantly sees the call for, as, for instance, a *larger provision* for the sick and wounded, embracing a larger corps of surgeons and of nurses; more hospital transports, exclusively assigned for the whole term of war to the Medical Department; and an independent and ample transportation train, involving a large outlay, as entirely under the control of the Surgeon-General and his officers, as is the ambulance train. The Sanitary Commission thus points out what it considers defects, and seeks to secure reform; yet it works in good faith and cordial earnestness, in its own more humble way, with the Medical Department as a whole.

In order to illustrate this, let me call your attention to the following extracts from letters and reports concerning the work of the Commission, in which reference is made to Medical Officers. You will see that the tone is that of co-operation.

I will turn first to the last report received from the agent of the Commission in charge of the work at Port Royal, Virginia, a day or two since. He says:

"All day Friday we fed, and issued supplies to the wounded, without stint. All

the departments have treated us with a cordiality, and more than cordiality—a willing confidence and cheer—that makes one quite buoyant in approaching them and working with them. Dr. Cuyler, Dr. Phillips, the representative of Dr. Parlan, at this post, and Dr. McKay, have been especially obliging. Dr. Cuyler on finding us so diligently at work, told me to draw on him for anything I needed. He loaned us additional stores, cauldrons, furnished us beef stock and coffee to any extent that we desired, and facilitated our operations in all proper ways, giving us information of the arrival of trains freely and promptly.

"I have never before seen the organic and proper relations between the Medical Department and the Commission so smoothly, thoroughly, and harmoniously adjusted—It was official and responsible—we were supplementers not supplanters, and the attachés of each seemed to have a strong feeling of mutual respect and heartiness."—*Report of John A. Anderson, Port Royal, Va., May* 28, 1864.

To this, I add extracts from recently printed records—some of them official reports, some hastily written letters.

"*May* 11, 1864.

* * * "It should not be forgotten, however, that the labors of the Commission are subordinate, and only auxiliary to the vaster and more perfectly organized system of the Medical Department of the Army, with which it works in complete accord. Col. Barnes, acting Surgeon General, gives to the Commission and its agents such facilities as are asked for, and from the Quartermaster's Department valuable aid is received."

* * * *

"With these nineteen teams the supplies can go on to Fredericksburg rapidly, where there is need of them. I can assure you, although Government is making exertions to supply the need, and is constantly showing increased ability to put in practice what were before regarded as only experiments. Thus, the Government has prepared, and admirably, two large hospital transports, and has also arranged for feeding the sick on board some of the other boats which are not regular floating hospitals."

"*May* 22, 1864.

"Bands of volunteers from various localities cheerfully took work in harmony with your organization, and lifting up the stretcher, supporting the crippled soldier to the boat, carrying bread, crackers and coffee, bathing the wounds, or re-adjusting bandages, serve to redouble all your means of succor. The officers of the Government both accepted cordially your services, and added in some things to your material, especially in supplies of bread, soft as well hard, and the members of the Christian Commission harmoniously co-operated in your work."

* * *

"I cannot close this hasty record without making mention, with admiration and gratitude, of the urbane and cordial temper in which the Medical Inspector in charge, and the medical officers under him, welcomed and seconded your service, and promoted its efficiency. Of the energy and decision, tempered with humane considerations of Col. Cuyler, and of his unflagging labor by night and day, all will bear glad witness. It was everything to us, unraveling intricacies, and shedding sunshine over the scene. The action of the entire medical staff here present, was in harmony with this example. The laborious and responsible duties of quartermaster were in the hands of one competent to meet the demands of this difficult occasion, and there are few men in his department who could have discharged the duty with the heart and energy, and administrative skill which enabled him to crowd the work of a month into a single week."

The following is an extract from a letter of Doctor C. R. Agnew, of the Commission, dated May 24th, 1864, describing the work at Belle Plain:

* * * "Down the right hand side of the 'U'-shaped dock slowly moved a single file of army wagons filled with wounded men; at the end or corner of the dock, by the gangway of a large Government transport, stood that most efficient and admirable officer, Dr. Cuyler, acting Medical Inspector General U. S. A., receiving the wounded, and superintending their removal from the wagons to the deck of the transport, preparatory to their transfer to the hospital steamboats that lay in the offing. After each wagon had deposited its living freight, it passed around the end of the dock to the left-hand side, and then took in ammunition or fighting rations—the orders being imperative to return to the front only with full loads of these indispensable supplies. Crowding along the narrow margin of the dock were continuous lines of men carrying letters and stretchers, on which were such of the more severely wounded as had been removed from the wagons at the hospital tents, on the hillside above the plain; hour after hour, for several days, was this fearful procession kept up. It would not be proper for me to state how many thousands thus passed under Dr. Cuyler's inspection, but I cannot forbear mentioning the most distinguished zeal, energy, and self-devotion with which his arduous duties were performed. His administrative skill, his quick and ready humanity, his almost ubiquitous presence,

his self-denying exposure to the pelting rain while laboring to secure prompt shelter to the wounded, his night work and day work, his personal attention to even the little wants and minor discomforts of each individual sufferer, were the subjects of universal admiration. Dr. Brinton was also there, working with signal efficiency and vigor in the difficult undertaking of forwarding medical supplies promptly to Fredericksburg and the front."

"Capt. Clark, of the Quartermaster's Department, and Capt. Lubey, 15th Regiment N. Y. Engineer Corps, gave us most cheerful and essential aid in this work. Indeed, from all the officers of the post we received nothing but kind services and expressions of goodwill. Capt. Pitkin, of the Quartermaster's Department, provided every facility in his power, and from Gen. Abercrombie and Col. Cuyler down, everybody seemed to take pleasure in aiding us. From Monday, the 9th, until this time, incessant exertions have been made by the officers of the Medical, Quartermasters', Commissaries and Ordnance Departments to remove the wounded from the rear of the army, and replenish the trains for forward movements. No one at home can form any idea of the labors of the officers in these departments, day after day and night after night, oftentimes living, meanwhile, on the scantiest subsistence, such as coffee and crackers, and these hurriedly taken. We are oftentimes loud in our praises of military commanders for achieving victory, but seldom give due credit for the result to the quartermasters, who work with almost superhuman energy at some base of supplies, and on whose talent, energy and fertility in resources, the very existence of the army depends."

* * * * *

"I should say that at Fredericksburg the medical affairs were under the able management of Dr. Dalton, Medical Director, while large numbers of medical men from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere, served day and night in the hospitals, aiding those devoted men, the army surgeons, in their exhaustive and most serious and self-denying duties. Who can sum up the value of the services of the army surgeons? Who can describe, in becoming phrases, a tithe of what they do for the thousands of suffering men thrown upon their care and skill by the fearful casualties of active campaigns. I never witness their conduct without a sense of the profoundest admiration, and a renewed conviction that the best work of our Commission is that by which we endeavor, even in an humble way, to strengthen their hands by supplementary assistance."

* * * * *

I add likewise this extract from a Special Relief Report of the Commission, dated October 1, 1863, expressing the feeling with which the Commission still regard the Medical Bureau:

* * * * * * "And in this connection I may fitly refer, both for the sake of justice to the Medical Department and as an apology for our own *existence*, to the frequent inquiry, uttered often in a tone of censure, How is it possible, if the medical officers do their duty, there can be any opportunity even for this supplementary work of relief?

"The question shows utter ignorance of the terrific weight of work, of the most complicated and delicate character, which the officers of the Medical Department have upon their hands, and of their constant liability to be called upon at any moment to meet great and unexpected emergencies. The fact is simply this, that while the Medical Department has made a larger and wider provision for the comfort of the sick and the wounded than the world ever before saw, there is not, and cannot be, a minuteness of detail and awaiting at every corner to give to a fainting soldier a cup of water, such as friends at home, in their anxious love, ask for.

"Yet this work needs to be done, and therefore we, who are simply the hands to the people's heart and bounty, do the work. But if the Medical Department were to attempt it in all its minutiæ of detail, their power for their own hundredfold greater work would be weakened in a way that would find no justification."

* * * * *

SHERMAN'S ARMY.

We must warn our readers that as long as active operations are going on in the field, it is impossible for our agents to forward full and correct accounts of what they are doing. Their energies are taxed to the uttermost night and day, in attending to the sick and wounded, so that we are obliged to wait for complete reports until there comes a lull. For the use of Gen. Sherman's Army, goods are constantly going forward. No pains are spared to make the supply ample.

During the month of May, in addition to the heavy shipments that have gone from Cincinnati, and other points by river to Nashville, there have been sent from Louisville by rail the following amount of articles, besides large supplies of those less essential at this particular time:

536 blankets and comforts, 127 bedticks,

703 pillows and 1,094 pillow cases, 2,86 shirts, 1,931 pairs of drawers, 1,480 coats and vests, 1,552 towels, 490 pairs of socks, 100 pairs of slippers, 495 cushions, 11,783 pounds of bandages and compresses, 839 cans of fruit, 5,675 pounds concentrated beef, 30,304 pounds condensed milk, 14,530 pounds of crackers, 840 pounds of tea, 2,861 pounds of sugar, 14,491 pounds of dried fruit, 25 boxes oranges and lemons, 3,161 pounds codfish, 1,718 pounds butter, 720 dozen of eggs, 7,449 bottles of wine and spirits, 4,715 gallons of pickles, 4,430 gallons of sauer kraut, 10,462 bushels of potatoes, 1,280 gallons of ale, 300 cans of oysters, 20 tons of ice and 2,000 fans.

The following letters have reached us from Sherman's front:

KINGSTON, GA, *May* 23, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY, *Secretary:*

MY DEAR SIR—I start this morning with the Army, not knowing where I am going or when I can return.

At Tunnel Hill we had our goods ready before there were any wounded at Buzzard Roost. At Resaca we had abundant supplies on the field. When the wounded were moved from the field to the railroad, our supplies were a little behind, but very soon brought up. Then I had abundant supplies on the way, but sent them back, with the exception of a good supply of milk, beef and whisky. Mr. Collins, of the Western Commission, had two car loads of very good stores. I joined with him in distributing to each corps or division as they would appropriate transportation. We gave all a large supply, and have but little left.

Dr. Kitto and Gen. Sherman advise sending all our stores not distributed back to Resaca until the result of this movement is determined, which we shall probably do.

We have now a storeroom at Dalton and Resaca, and have had one at Ringgold and Tunnel Hill, which we have abandoned as the army has moved.

My plan will be, as it has been, to keep stores at the terminus of the railroad, and by being with the army, I can obtain teams, at least have thus far, to bring forward goods as soon as wanted.

The weather is dry, dusty and hot. Dr. Webster, with Mr. Hoblit, Fairchild, and Pocock, go with the army.

Most truly yours,

A. N. READ.

—

IN THE FIELD, AND NEAR DALLAS, *May* 29, 1864.

MY DEAR DR. NEWBERRY—As I have written you, we loaded all the teams we could obtain at Kingston with sanitary stores, and by order sent the balance back to Resaca. We sent a load with each corps, and, in some cases, one with each division.

We have had more fighting here, and the battle, yet undecided, may be said to be in progress. We are very near the line with the hospitals. The goods of the Commission have come in good time, and the wounded so far have been well cared for except in transportation. Most have been sent back from Resaca, and to-day army wagons take back the slightly wounded and sick from here.

If you will give us the stores, we will make them useful, and will keep up the credit of the Commission. Our having them in the field, all the way from Chattanooga, and carrying them to the hospitals in the extreme front, and being fully represented by the agents of the Commission, has given it a new place in the hearts of many who had before doubted of its usefulness. But our supplies must be large. Each division, on the average, will use one box of milk a day to good advantage. This requires about 700 pounds per day.

The supply of fresh beef has been good, and promptly furnished, so that beef stock has not been in quite so much demand, but yet has been largely used. Rags and bandages are also wanted, as well as clothing. So are the arm-slings. As I write, a soldier comes in with his hand off, and he is supplied with one of them. They are of great value.

Most truly yours,

A. N. READ.

We have a depot at Dalton, Resaca, and shall open again in Kingston as soon as possible.

—

CHATTANOOGA, *June* 2, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

MY DEAR SIR—We have little time for writing, trusting to the telegraph, and send-

ing as definite information as we are permitted to do.

The demand for all battle stores and for laborers has vastly increased at the front. We have kept a good supply of stores at the front at all times, as near the army as we safely could, and on the first train to Kingston, after our army left that point, we sent forward three car loads. Three hundred car loads of army stores are ordered to that point now for yesterday, to-day, and to-morrow. We cannot have transportation to-day, but expect it to-morrow, and one more shipment will exhaust our stock. I have taken the liberty of telegraphing direct to Cincinnati, as the agents from there have requested me to do, and to Chicago, and Cleveland. All the stores you can send are needed.

Our stock of milk and whisky is now the largest of any, but we shall need more, and of everything else which will add to the comfort of sick and wounded men in the field and in the hospitals; we need large supplies as fast as they can be got through.

We are paying large amounts of postage to forward soldiers' letters from home, and packages from hospitals containing descriptive rolls and discharge papers.

I wish that through the BULLETIN, you would call especial attention of the friends of the soldier, to the necessity—

1st. Of sending no letters to the army without paying postage, under the idea that, if marked "soldiers' letter," they will go through and may be paid at the end of the route. In all cases they will be detained at the Postoffice here, and will be forwarded by no military postbag until the postage is paid.

2d. Of fully paying postage on all letters and packages. For all deficiencies double rates will be charged, and the mail matter detained until this double postage is paid.

In haste, yours truly,

M. C. READ.

—

CHATTANOOGA, *June* 3, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

DEAR SIR—

* * * * *

I have been through the wards of the post hospitals to-day, containing the most severely wounded. There are very many whose lives will depend upon a constant supply of the most generous diet; and there are many, who, from their wounds, ought to die in accordance with the ordinary results of army surgery, who on a generous diet will get well—men with fractures, and amputations of the thigh, &c. Indeed, I never saw so many severely wounded men, whose prospects were so good, and the surgeon in charge attributes this, in a great degree, to the stores furnished through the Commission.

Yours, M. C. READ.

—

KINGSTON, GA., *May* 22, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY, *Sec'y U. S. San. Com.:*

DEAR SIR—After a very active campaign of two weeks, we have come to a halt for a few days. In these two weeks we have marched about sixty miles, and fought four battles, in every case defeating the enemy. We have lost about five thousand in killed and wounded. It has been a series of successes. To-morrow morning the order is to march again, and with twenty days rations, leaving all who are not able for a long march. I have been with the army all the time from the first advance from Ringgold. At Tunnel Hill I immediately procured store room, and returned to Ringgold for stores and helpers. By the time the wounded began to come in to the Hospitals there, we were on the ground with our stores. Dr. Read soon came up, and all went on well. We fed hundreds of sick men, also those who were sent to the rear, and while they were waiting transportation to Chattanooga, we made and gave them coffee, &c.

At the battle of Resaca we were promptly on the ground, and with six loads of sanitary stores for those divisions that suffered most. Dr. Read and I rode through the army from the right toward the left. Monday morning, on arriving at the first Division Hospital, 4th A. C., the doctor remained, and I went on to find the 20th A. C. This was about 1 o'clock. Coming upon the extreme left, I found Hooker hotly engaged with the enemy, and just at that time the wounded were beginning to come in. I rode down toward the field of conflict, and discovered that the wounded were being brought off the field by the hundreds. (The loss in the Corps was

about twelve hundred.) I immediately found the Medical Director of the Corps, got an order from Gen. Hooker for three wagons, one for each Division Hospital, to return to Dalton, a distance of fifteen miles, and bring up battle stores. This was done promptly, and the next morning, by 8 o'clock, the stores were on the ground, and were, as many said, a God-send. I worked with all the surgeons that were within reach, those of the 4th Corps coming to assist, and also all our agents on that part of the field, till after midnight, in making the wounded com ortable. The battle ended Saturday night, after Hooker's storming and capturing the rebel fort.

The next day I went to Resaca and got rooms. The ambulances were bringing in the wounded, to be put on the cars and sent to Chattanooga. The cars were not there to receive them. The ambulances must return to the field by order of the General. There was no hospital. There were some buildings, but all were filled with rubbish. I got a detail of twelve men, and Dr. Hazen joined me in cleaning out a large building and putting the wounded into it. There were no stores, either medical or Sanitary, with which to feed the men. Neither were there at that time any commissary stores there, and the wounded were calling for something to eat. Oh, I *did* long for our stores. But the water-tanks had given out, and for a few hours the cars were detained. In the emergency, I went to the bridge building, and procured coffee for two hundred and fifty wounded, then lying on the hard floor.

The next day Dr. Coolidge came and had the field hospital brought up from Ringgold. Then I came on to this place. We have secured as promptly and fully as possible the list of deaths on battle-field and of the wounded. I shall return to my post in Nashville as soon as my place can be supplied here. I go out on this expedition with the 4th and 20th Corps. We are ordered to take thirty days' rations. This will be a long and hard march, and a very important campaign.

I must close, as Mr. Eno goes on the train to Chattanooga.

Yours respectfully,

J. C. Hoblit.

Nashville, *May* 27, 1864.

Dr. J. S. Newberry:

Dear Sir—At the request of M. C. Read, I write you to give a short synopsis of the Sanitary work at the front. Everything was done that could be before the advance, to hurry forward stores to Chattanooga, and have them ready to send to points most needed. Dr. Read kept well up with the advance, and secured room for stores the very day the army entered Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Dalton, Resaca, and Kingston; besides this, several wagon loads were sent on to the field, and were on hand to be used when the first wounded were brought in. The Government was prompt in giving transportation, and stores were sent to each of the above places as soon as there were wounded to need them; and without the Sanitary supply, there would really have been more suffering. By the advice of the Medical Director, the stores at Kingston were returned to Resaca; at this place a sufficient quantity of staple articles will be kept to send forward at a moment's notice. There is a field hospital established, in which it is expected there will be at least one thousand for some time. On Monday there was one thousand in it, and Division Hospitals near by. The surgeons have drawn freely, and been supplied liberally; just now they are most in need of mosquito bars, ale, and sponges; there is not one sponge to ten men. These have been telegraphed for, and I hope will be forwarded.

At Dalton, the principal work has been to feed the wounded on trains passing up; they usually make long stops, and we found the men very thankful for hot coffee, beef-soup, and crackers; about fifteen hundred men were fed there last week. Mr. Barrett, a thorough worker, is there, and does the work well. I left Dr. Read at Kingston, prepared to advance with the army; there was also an agent to go with each corps.

Mr. Collins, of the Western Sanitary Commission, got two cars through to Kingston, which came very opportunely. He gave an equal portion to each of the corps. Dr. Read added milk, beef, and stimulants. It was pleasant to see the two Commissions co-operating and working cordially togeth-

er. This feeling I believe can be maintained, and each Commission be made to do its full share of good.

Very respectfully,
Your friend,
EDWARD I. ENO,
Illinois State Agent.

SCENES AT "THE BASE."

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May* 14, 1864.

DEAR MRS. ———, I have just come up from the rear of the Army of the Potomac, and there will at least be some variety in my correspondence with you if I tell you what I saw at Belle Plain, instead of, as usual, repeating my Oliver Twistian cry of "more! more!"

The day before yesterday I started from Washington with four volunteers, two ladies and two gentlemen, three of the party being from your city; and several being accustomed to army traveling and hospital nursing. One of the ladies is the wife of one of our generals, and the other is the writer of that excellent little pamphlet—"Three Weeks at Gettysburg." The steamer we were on was well loaded with supplies—somewhere about sixty tons—and a score or two of relief agents to reinforce those already on the field and at Fredericksburg. Reaching Belle Plain—so called from its being a series of high hills—just as the twilight was setting on the beautiful and varied tints of verdure with which the last week or two of summer weather have covered its slopes, we found a repetition of the scenes I have before witnessed, at the same place, in the spring of last year, and at various other places on the Peninsula and elsewhere, during the different campaigns of the war. A couple of rudely constructed wharves, a mile or two apart, jut out into the placid waters of the broad creek, and lying against these, four or five deep, are steamers and barges of all kinds and sizes, loading and unloading so busily that you might imagine yourself on the docks of Boston, New York, or Philadelphia. Boxes, barrels, and bales pass from the holds and decks of the vessels, on the shoulders of long strings of contrabands, or on trucks, along the crazy wharf of the beach, and are there transferred to army-wagons, which, after being filled, join the procession of similar vehicles, each drawn by four stout horses, that, with few gaps in the long road up the ascent and along its crest, wind slowly and toilsomely, as far as the eye can reach, towards Fredericksburg and the adjacent camps. So far as the vessels and wharf are concerned, the scene resembles the unloading of vessels in a seaport town; but in a seaport town one does not—in peace times at least—see hosts of uniformed and armed men tramp from the decks along the wharves to join the hosts preceding them; nor does one see regiments of troopers tugging at the reins of unmanageable horses that plunge fiercely among the swaying masses of humanity and the unflinching masses of merchandise that line their way. But what can there be to load vessels with in an out-of-the-way creek, running up into a country, from the hills of which one may look all round to the horizon without one's eye resting on a human habitation?—a permanent habitation, I should say, for every strip of land in sight that is not covered with trees is dotted with tents and bivouacs and army-wagons, beneath the canvass and boughs of which are sheltered—as much as may be in the fast-falling rain—multitudes of weary men, as if collected into houses and streets would fill many villages, and turn the wilderness into a populous town. Thank goodness, when the spectator next watches the loading of a vessel in a commercial town, he will see nothing of what he now sees at this warfaring port of Belle Plain. All day long, and the day before, and several days before that, the ascending procession of wagons filled with rations, and of infantry and cavalry that have gone to reinforce Grant, have been met by a parallel line—a little way off, for the impromptu roads are too narrow to admit of vehicles passing each other—of ambulances filled with wounded men; and it is with these men, carried on stretchers from the ambulances, that the "outward bound" vessels are loaded.

It is indeed a sad sight; but there is a great satisfaction in reflecting that one is standing in the midst of all kinds of comforts and delicacies to reinforce the stock which has already been provided for these very men; and in recognizing within hailing distance a handsome flag, inscribed

with the words, "U. S. Sanitary Commission," streaming from its staff on the deck of a portly barge, comfortably lined with numberless good things for wear and diet, at that very moment—we can imagine with a strength equal to conviction, for not even "with the aid of a powerful glass" can our point of sight enable us to discern behind the intervening boxes and barrels—under process of distribution to the poor fellows as they are carried past to the boats that are about to convey them to Washington.

It is now dark. The rain has somewhat abated, but even if it poured as much as ever it would not be possible to restrain the ladies from entering at once on their self-imposed duties. So I help them into a boat and we are rowed to the dock, and are soon on board our barge, or storeboat as it is called. But the procession of wounded men is over for the night; and those that have come before are on their way to Washington, while those *in transitu* from the battle-fields are resting in wayside stations, or in the ambulances conveying them—a poor way for wounded and sore men to pass the night, but such as the cruel necessities of war render unavoidable. Dr. Steiner tells us that the nearest of the Commission's feeding lodges is some half mile up the hill, and that its capacity will not admit of any more attendance than that which is already supplied. As the ladies came to render aid where it is needed, not to supplant that which is previously provided, they think it advisable not to wade up to the lodge knee-deep in Virginia mud, nor do they consider the cause of humanity demands the waking up of some poor fellows who are waiting the next boat, and the administering to them of pound cake, pies, and surreptitious draughts of bad whisky; so we presently get into the row-boats, and ladies are before long occupying the pilot house—the polite and ejected captain seeking other quarters—while the men dispose themselves for the night upon the decks, those that have rubber coats or blankets to keep off the rain, now descending faster than ever—feeling their great advantage over those who, rubberless, vainly seek dry spots wherever there are no leaking places in the ceiled roof.

The next morning—very early indeed, sleeping accommodations offering few inducements to people of sybaritic tendencies—the relief agents are almost all started to Fredericksburg, and our small party enter the lists as relief agents on the spot. The scene of yesterday is renewed in all its details, and as the wounded men are borne in, hour after hour, in one long string, the pale and often blood-stained occupant of every stretcher is furnished, according to his needs, by one or other of the party, with crackers, beef-tea, coffee, wine, water, or lemonade. The wine and lemonade are given only on the advice of a medical man, and sometimes the one is intensified into brandy, and the other into the unmixed juice of lemon. But for men exhausted with lying on the battle-field for many hours, sometimes for a day or two, without food or drink, thence to the operating table and thence to the ambulance, the other things may be given, in most instances, in such quantities as they crave. Poor fellows, they clutch at them—but always with a "thank you"—as if they thought they could swallow the basket or bottle along with the contents, but a few mouthfuls is generally all they have strength to manage.

It is best for each one of such a relief party to confine oneself to the distribution of a single article, the cracker man never trenching on the lady's coffee pail, and the coffee lady leaving the beef religiously to another. Infinitely more may be done by systematically pursuing this plan of speciality. If, when the beef tea is being carried round, some poor fellow shakes his head and imploringly asks for water or stimulant, one must not set down the beef tea to be kicked over before one gets back, and rush off to spend half an hour in searching for water or stimulant, so depriving a hundred men of beef tea for the sake of trying to get something which will probably be furnished him by the allotted water or whisky bearer in three minutes after. One must humanely harden one's heart, and say with stern tenderness: "Yes, my boy, all right, a lady will be along with some delicious iced water in a minute or two," and he will probably smile and say, "Thank you, sir, all right—I can wait. Say, mister, there's a fellow right across there—that one with his leg off, and his

head bound up—he belongs to my company—he ain't had nothing to eat since the day before yesterday. I guess he'd like some o' that ere stuff. Won't you please give him some?"

But the giving of sustenance is not all the work. One man complains of his head being too low, and his overcoat has to be rolled up—or, failing in that, the straw round him has to be gathered up to form a pillow for him. (The pallets and bedding have given out, though the first boat's load sent off were as comfortably provided for as if in the wards of a general hospital, and the men we are tending are lying on the decks on straw, but this they count luxury after the battle-field and ambulance.) Another wants a handkerchief, and another a pair of socks. This man's shirt is all torn and bloody, and must be replaced by another. One man complains of the intolerable heat, and some of his clothing must be removed; another is shivering with cold, and more clothing or an extra blanket must be provided for him. Here is one who feels the hand of death upon him, and the head of that one of our party who is with him is bent down to catch from his white lips his last message to his friends. Five minutes after, the blanket is drawn smoothly over the face, and the quiet of the lately restless limbs shows that the weary soldier has fought his last battle, and entered into his rest.

Continually through the day our party has met others engaged in a like work, but all too busy and pre-occupied to notice each other, unless to render some necessary act of joint assistance to a sufferer, till one is met who labored with some of the party at Gettysburg, and, perhaps, elsewhere. He joins us in our rounds, and when at night I ask him if he knows what has been done with the bodies of those I have seen die through the day on the boats and on the wharf, he tells me that he has helped that day to bury—and has read the funeral service—over the bodies of over sixty soldiers. He is, or is going to be, a clergyman.

We have, thus, administering to the poor fellows' needs, traversed the decks and cabins and every foot of superficies, available for the outstretched or partially recumbent form of a man, of four vessels; and now for some cause there is a lull in the arrivals and the turmoil. This gives us time to look at our watches, and to our amazement we find it is five o'clock, instead of eleven or twelve, as we fancied. Thereupon we apprehend it is no wonder we are faint, considering we have been working so hard all day on our six o'clock breakfast of crackers and ham. A sumptuous repast of crackers is not indeed the magnificent Boston edible, but a softer and inferior sort—coffee is forthwith disposed of, and during the repast we discover that there is a suspension of ambulances and stretchers to allow the passage of some thousands of rebel prisoners from Dixie to the land of the free in Fort Delaware and elsewhere—the freedom of such strongholds being the kind they seem most to appreciate. Pretty soon there marched along, under guard, three men dressed in rebel grey and unarmed. Except for the black feather, cavalier fashion, across the front of the hat, and for the three stars on the upturned collar of one of them, they might have been taken, so far as dress was concerned, for privates, but these insignia showed the rank of a Brigadier-General in the Confederate service. This was General Stuart, a handsome fellow, some thirty-five years old, I should judge; and who endeavored to conceal his feelings beneath a jaunty and somewhat defiant manner. His older companion, wrapped up in a grey overcoat, without any insignia of rank visible, and whose grizzly hair showed through sundry rents in the most "shocking bad hat" I ever saw, is Major-General Johnson; and the third prisoner is his adjutant-general. Being brought to a halt they sit down on some boxes, and Johnson draws from his pocket a copy of the Washington *Morning Chronicle*, and picking out the war news, reads something in a low tone to Stuart, who nervously laughs. Not placing implicit confidence myself in the war news of most of our newspapers, I fancy they may have discovered some slight mistake, and therefore feel no inclination to resent their raillery; but the crowd around are not so lenient, probably thinking strongly on the subject of Belle Island and Fort Pillow; and the murmurs increase until there is, for a minute, dan-

ger of violence being offered to the prisoners; but a few stern words from the captain of the guard, and the ringing of the bayonets of the latter, soon restores order, and the Generals and Adjutant are marched quietly off to the boat that is to convey them to Fort Delaware or wherever else. In a little while they are followed by a multitude of rebel officers—four hundred in number, it is said—of every rank, from colonel to second lieutenant, but none with any marks of rank detectable except in few cases where the coat collar was turned up, where one or two more dandyfied than the rest had decorated the lapels of their coats with their insignia. At first I thought they were privates; for, even apart from their dress, they presented, in the mass, little evidence of superiority to the rank and file of our men: but I was told that the large body of their fellow prisoners of the rank and file who followed them—they came shortly after, but I was too busy to look at them—were decidedly inferior to them in all respects. One of them, almost a boy, entered into a political argument with one of his guard, an old sergeant from New York who stood by me, embracing the questions of slavery, the constitutional right of secession, etc.; and which, notwithstanding my suggestion that if verbal argument had proved of any avail to settle the difference between the North and the South they would not have been called upon to fight each other, finally grew general and warm, and was only finished by the party being marched off to their quarters.

The arrival of the prisoners had brought a new set of claimants on the stores of the Commission—not wounded nor sick, but very hungry men, who had been guarding the prisoners since the evening before, and many of whom had nothing to eat during that time. Considering that the mission of the Commission, like that of quinine, is not only curative, but rather and mainly prophylactic, I dispensed to them of crackers according to their needs; but they made no demand of course on the delicacies.

Meanwhile the rest of the party had renewed on another boat which was preparing to leave, and was fast being filled up with fresh arrivals of wounded, their labors of the fore part of the day. I returned hither with a boat load of wounded, leaving Belle Plain between 10 and 11 P. M., and getting to Washington in the early morning.

When I left it was quite dark, and after helping my last case aboard—a handsome boy who told me he would be "seventeen come next birth-day"—and changing the shirt he had not changed for three weeks, after washing away from a wound in his side the blood that soiled the skin, looking so fair and white beneath in contrast to his sunburnt face and neck, I watched for a few minutes the scene spread out before me as the vessel receded from the dock. All over the water twinkled the lights from the many vessels, some stationary, and some steaming to and fro, while far up the hillsides gleamed the lights through the canvas of the tents, giving the appearance of a large city illuminated for some festival, the effect being heightened by the broad and high flickering flames of innumerable camp fires, like so many *feux-de-joie*. So we steamed up the quiet river, passing by and by the house of the great man who so toilfully won for his national children the rich heritage some of them would now rend asunder; and the moon, struggling every now and then through the clouds which still sailed across the sky, looked down on the white faces and ghastly wounds of those whom their brothers had stricken down. The night watch was but a repetition of the work of the day, and during its weary hours the same wonderful fortitude amid their wounds and sufferings was observable; hardly a groan or sigh to be heard, except from two or three who were delirious; and even as I sat by the driver on the ambulance which conveyed some of them from the Washington wharf to the hospital to which they were assigned, I only heard a low moan now and then, as the horses struggled through the pitfalls of the city of magnificent distances.

My next letter will be written to you, I think, from Fredericksburg, and I will finish this by calling your attention to the care with which I have kept my promise of not asking for more. Nevertheless, after premising that the medico-military authorities caution us not to be too profuse at the beginning, for that the real fighting has not yet begun, I cannot do less than point

my story with a moral; but what the moral is, I will leave to your own reflections.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Assistant Secretary.

ISSUES OF STORES TO THE ARMY IN VIRGINIA.

The following statement shows the issues made by the U. S. Sanitary Commission to the Armies of Virginia in the field during the month of May, 1861:

130 air cushions.
10 air beds.
3,541 bed ticks.
265 bed pans.
2,932 blankets.
271 chambers.
312 candlesticks.
2,508 combs, coarse.
1,720 " fine.
5,817 cushions.
110 head rests.
376 lanterns.
315 medicine cups.
288 " tubes.
268 pcs. mosquito netting.
162 rolls oil silk.
3,394 pillows.
1,424 pillow cases.
3,300 pillow ticks.
1,203 quilts.
654 ring cushions.
1,416 sheets.
265 spittoons.
494 spit cups.
7,798 towels,
7,406 tin cups.
1,225 tin wash basins.
1,893 tin plates.
262 urinals.
144 mattresses.
1,114 knives and forks.
2,905 spittoons.
45 stretchers.
100 dippers.
3,427 pcs. cotton drawers.
12,304 pcs. woolen drawers.
14,991 handkerchiefs.
2,950 forage, (oats) bushels.
15,000 lbs. hay.
6 bbls. salt beef.
6 cases dessicated veg.
1,857 lbs. ham.
12 shaving brushes.
12 razors.
127 lbs. lard.
67 pcs. cotton pants.
6,403 cotton shirts.
10,507 woolen shirts.
472 shoes.
2,909 slippers.
3,208 cotton socks.
9,451 woolen socks.
648 wrappers.
695 pails.
67 canes.
6 pocket flasks.
30 cots.
93 bbls. ale. [See porter.]
144 bottles ale.
181 bbls. dried apples.
100 lbs. arrow root.
8,165 lbs. beef stock.
2,514 bottles brandy.
4,532 lbs. canned meat.
2,254 lbs. canned fruit.
4,252 lbs. canned vegetables.
312 bottles cherry rum.
326 lbs. cocoa.
8,584 lbs. sweet chocolate.
1,266 lbs. ext. coffee. [See Coffee.]
949 lbs. dried beef.
22 hammers.
40 axes.
18 hand saws.
44 hatchets.
405 lbs. nails.
38 shovels.
9 spades.
3,106 lbs. ground coffee.
18,912 lbs. condensed milk.
353 bbls. crackers,
3,582 lbs. corn starch.
13 bbls. corn meal.
2 bbls. dried peaches.
2,628 bottles ext. ginger.
6,480 lbs. farina.
24 packages gelatina.
48 bottles gin.
62 bot. jellies and preserves,
408 boxes lemons.
600 bottles lemon syrup.
1,854 lbs. maizena.
350 lbs. mustard.
20 lbs. nutmegs.
2,344 lbs. oat meal.
942 gals. pickles.
70 bbls. porter.
60 " potatoes.
400 lbs. rice.
12 bottles N. E. rum.
1,068 " Jamaica rum.
11,868 lbs. sugar.
119 lbs. spices.
511½ gals. tamarinds.
1,488 lbs. black tea.
1,200 lbs. green tea.
3,306 lbs. tobacco.
258 gals. vinegar.
24 bots. raspberry vinegar.
3,960 bots. foreign wine.
119 coffee pots.
2 bbls. flour.
13 reams wrapping paper.
182 galls. molasses.
17½ galls. kerosene oil.
1 chisel.
1 screw-driver.
12 gimblets.
975 bottles domestic wine.
3,520 bottles whisky.
23 galls. whisky.
280 bottles alcohol.
38 bbls. bandages.
699 bottles bay rum.
1,047 body bands.
5 boxes books.
620 bottles cologne.
2,843 crutches.
7,750 fans.
51 games.
21 bbls. lint.
29 bbl. old linen.
2,266 slings.
953 lbs. soap.
309⅓ lbs. sponges.
1,945 lbs. candles.
3,858 lbs. butter.
1,645 lbs. cheese.
2,619 doz. eggs.
5,387 loaves bread.
735 papers pins.
21,325 envelopes.
320 bottles ink.
58 reams writing paper.
5,328 pencils.
1,288 pen holders.
1,288 pens.
1,300 lbs. oakum.
4,000 pipes.
540 lbs. chloroform.
45 bottles spirits camphor.
12 cook stoves and fixtures.
17 wall tents.
1 quire sand paper.
9 can openers.
49½ lbs. twine.
40 corkscrews.
242 prs. scissors.
8 pepper boxes.
10 lbs. saleratus.
70 lbs. pepper.
22 tin pans, for wash'g dishes
1,483 lbs. salt.
54 boxes oranges.
100 camp kettles.
17 frying pans.
44 rolls adhesive plaster.
4 nutmeg graters.
30 camp stools.
12 baskets.
6,000 feet lumber.
16,000 lbs. straw.
24 china plates.
20 yds oil cloth.
200 cathartic pills.
6,000 opium pills.
2,000 opium and camp. pills.
60 smoked tongues.
221 rubber blankets.
252 open links.
14 feed troughs.
9 boxes splints.
36 gross matches.
682 yds. rubber cloth.
17 oz. morphine.
20 yds. white flannel.
1,870 lbs. chloride of lime.
3½ lbs. ligature silk.
150 haversacks.
84 blowers.
100 hospital car loops.
8 water coolers.
2 lbs. bromine.
50 lbs. patent lint.
24 dressing fauceps.
16 papers tacks.
100 yards wire.
6 door mats.
1 gross needles.
55 lbs. mutton tallow.
1 piece sheeting.
1 refrigerator.
2 stove boilers.
20 boxes chlorinium.
6 boxes clothing.
6 rocking chairs.
57 bottles cider.
12 faucets.
2 faucet augurs.
1 pump.
224 canteens.
72 boxes blacking.
362 boxes sardines.
300 paper bags.
3 washing machines.
12 blank books.
97½ tons ice.
12 bottles copperas.
3 bottles chloride soda.
2 medicine chests.
6 stove brushes.
1 bbl. salt pork.
12 stew pans.
12 frying pans.
2,200 lbs. fresh beef.
36 four-horse wagons, with harness, whips, extra whiffletrees, &c., complete.
156 two-horse wagons, do.

The following anti-scorbutic stores were sent from New York and stored in Baltimore. About one-third of these were loaded on board the Ridley, and taken to Norfolk in tow of the Kent.

4,291 galls. pickled tomatoes.
51,812 lbs. canned tomatoes.
1,106 galls. curried cabbage.
671 bbls. dried apples.
15,168 galls. saur kraut.
4,162 galls. pickles.
3,580 galls. pickled onions.
12,060 lbs. apple pulp.
2,400 boxes portable lemonade.
1 tub apple butter.
1 doz. ginger wine

REV. DR. WINSLOW.

A large circle of friends and the public will deeply mourn the death of the REV. GORDON WINSLOW, M. D., of the Sanitary Commission. He fell overboard from a transport, on the morning of the 7th of June, and was drowned in the Potomac. At the time he was accompanying his wounded son, Col. Cleveland Winslow, (Duryea Zouaves,) to Washington, and was engaged in various duties attendant upon his position.

DR. WINSLOW was born in Vermont, in 1804, prepared for Yale College at Andover, Mass., and graduated at that institution. Soon after his attention was drawn to the Episcopal Church, and he became rector of a church in Troy, New York, and subsequently in Annapolis. Afterwards, he was for many years rector of St. Paul's, Staten Island, and Chaplain of the Quar-

antine. At the outbreak of the rebellion he was appointed Chaplain of the Duryea Zouaves, and accompanied that regiment in all its trying scenes and hard-fought battles. He was distinguished for his bravery, and his services gained for him high credit and renown among the army. He also served on the Sanitary Commission, and when his regiment returned last year he was appointed Inspector of the Army of the Potomac. His efficiency and valuable services will not soon be forgotten.

Dr. Winslow possessed a fine social nature, full of good heart and noble soul. His traits of character were remarkably well blended. All his motives and plans were of a high and noble cast. His mind was acute, active and fertile. He was thoroughly conversant with literature and science, and he often contributed for the press and various literary publications. But he has departed, cut down in the midst of usefulness, and his loss will be felt by friends and the public. A pure and true-minded man, sincere Christian, noble soul, and generous nature have passed from earth to Heaven. Dr. Winslow leaves a wife and two sons, both of whom are officers in the army. He was a brother of the Rev. Hubbard Winslow, D. D., and of the eminent missionary, Dr. Myron Winslow.

THE PHILADELPHIA FAIR.

The buildings for the fair are enormous, occupying all of Logan Square, a space of nearly six by five hundred feet. There are ninety separate departments in the fair, and to travel through each will be about a two-mile walk to the anxious spectator. A fifty cent ticket admits a visitor to eighty-one of these departments, the other nine are extra. They are as follows, and the admittance to each is as specified:

Art Gallery	25	cents.
Horticulture	25	"
Indian Department	25	"
Signor Blitz	25	"
Arms and Trophies	20	"
Relics and Curiosities	20	"
William Penn Parlor	10	"
Skating Pond	10	"
Divan	10	"
Total	$1	70

For the sum of $2 20 a visitor sees the whole "sight," which may be truly designated a miniature world.

The buildings are light, airy, and comfortable; far more pleasant inside than their appearance outside would betoken. The decorations inside are most complete, the several wings being gaily plumed in red, white, and blue, presenting pleasing, patriotic, and beautiful pictures. Standing at the main or eastern entrance of the great arched building known as "Union Hall," we have to our right and left the sections for Delaware and New Jersey, and directly in front a continuous view to the extent of five hundred feet of Gothic archway, the base line being sixty-four feet, and the apex being an elevation of fifty feet.

The large collection of banners, flags, and paintings have been used with admirable judgment, and the firemen may well challenge comparison with the decorations in any other department. The goods offered for sale in this portion of the building are among the most attractive of the fair. Union Avenue centains a great variety of articles, and as the exhibitors have been left to their own fancy in the matter of decorations for the counters and shelves, the display is varied, and no better place could have been selected for the opening ceremonies.

For the accommodation of the speakers, invited guests, &c., a large platform was erected in the western end of the avenue, which was decorated in keeping with the main body of the hall. The crowd began to pour in long before the time announced for the commencement of proceedings, and when the hour of four arrived every spot along the whole avenue was occupied. The scene presented was most pleasing indeed, especially to those who were favored with a position on the platform, where they could freely scan all before them. The exercises were opened by music, "Hail Columbia," by a full orchestra.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

Dr. Alexander McDonald, Inspector United States Sanitary Commission, in letter of June 2d, Bermuda Hundred, says: "We have just arrived at the Hundred, 9 A. M. Stopped last night at Wilson's Landing, and left saur kraut, potatoes and onions for the forces there and at Fort Powhatan, and are now making arrangements for having supplies at Bermuda Hundred."

SOLDIER'S HOME AT CAIRO.

The reports for the five weeks ending May 2nd, show, that during that period 10,423 men were admitted; 7,941 lodgings, and 20,305 meals were furnished, while transportation was procured for 829.

The advance of Sherman's Army into Georgia, leaving a very long line through a wasted country in his rear, will render the establishment of a number of new "Homes" along it necessary.

OUR CONSULS ABROAD,

The European Branch in Paris of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, have frequently had occasion to acknowledge the valuable aid rendered by the American Consuls in Europe to the Commission, and have made particular mention, in this relation of James O. Putnam, Consul at Havre; Mr. Thaddeus Hyatt, at Rochelle; and Mr. James Lesby, at Lyons.

Our countryman, Mr. John R. Tait, resident at Dusseldorf, has, by unceasing exertions, obtained very large and valuable donations from a great number of nobleminded and generous artists in that place.

A LESSON WELL LEARNT.

From Charles Dickens's "All the Year Round."

When the shadow of death hung over the Italian campaign, from which Italy knew how to take more liberty than it was meant that she should have, a citizen of Geneva, M. Henri Dunant, had his heart strengthened for noble labors by the recollection of the work done by Florence Nightingale in the Crimea. If there must be wars, why may they not be fought out by civilized nations with common recognition of the common duties of humanity? What if there were a General European Sanitary Commission? By his energetic labor competent men of many countries were brought together last year in the International Congress upon this question at Geneva—our Inspector General of Hospitals, then representing Great Britain, by authority of our Secretary of War, with competent official deputies from France, and from Austria, and from Russia, and from Prussia, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Bavaria, Wurtemburg, Baden and Hesse, Hanover and Holland.

We know not what may come of the movement thus commenced, but we are glad to learn, from a little book called "A Woman's Example and a Nation's Work," (published by Ridgway,) that in the midst of all the miseries of civil war in America, the lesson taught by Florence Nightingale has not been lost upon a kindred people. The newspapers tell all the battle stories, and have enabled us to sup full of the horrors of the strife. Of the pity, and the deeds of mercy it engenders, we have not been told all we might hear.

The women on each side connected themselves at the outbreak of the war with the great work of healing and solace. The South has assuredly and certainly not been behind the North in generous self-sacrifice, but from the South few records come to us as yet; at present it is only of what has been done in the North that we can tell the tale.

The women began their work of mercy by filling churches, schoolrooms, and the large houses of many wealthy persons, with lint-scrapers, cutters, folders, and packers of the linen they gave to the use of the wounded. Then they organized themselves, first in New York, into a "Woman's Central Association of Relief;" like bodies were constituted elsewhere, and advice was sought from men of experience. They were advised to ascertain what government could and would do in the direction to which their work tended, then to work with it, and by their own liberality of gifts and labor, supplement its unavoidable short-comings. The clergyman of New York who was foremost in giving this counsel, the Rev. Dr. Bellows, accompanied by three of the chief physicians of New York, Drs. Van Buren, Harris, and Harsen, went, therefore, in deputation to Washington for conference with the Secretary of War. They represented not only the "Woman's Central Association," but also the Advisory Committee of the Boards of Physicians and Surgeons of the New York Hospitals, and the New York Medical Association for furnishing Hospital Supplies in aid of the Army. The three bodies were all acting harmoniously together in turning to the best account the free gifts from the city and State of New York, designed in aid of the comfort and security of the troops. They petitioned for some rigor in inspection of volunteers, that unsuitable persons might not be sent to certain death in the Army; the Woman's Association was about to send for service in the general hospitals of the Army one hundred picked and trained female nurses, and they asked that the War Department should be content to receive on wages during actual duty as many of such nurses as the exigencies of the campaign might require. They suggested, also, the appointment of a Sanitary Commission, which President Lincoln scoffed at as a "fifth wheel to the military coach." This memorial was very coldly received by the War Department and the Medical Bureau of the Army. The United States Sanitary Commission, which has by this time turned to right use in works of health and mercy, voluntary contributions amounting to about two millions of money, got its first lift towards existence in a note of recommendation from Dr. R. C. Wood, Acting Surgeon General to the United States Army.

The four delegates then at once sent in a sketch of the plan of such a Commission, specifying all they asked for it from the Government; no new legal powers whatever, and none of the public money; but simply official public recognition during the war, or until it should be found unserviceable, and a room in one of the public buildings in Washington or elsewhere, with station-

ery and other insignia of a recognized public office. The object of the desired Commission would be "to bring to bear upon the health, comfort and morale of the troops, the fullest and ripest teachings of sanitary science in its application to military life;" directing particular attention, for example, to the material of the volunteer force, and to such subjects as diet and cookery, clothing, and precaution against damp, cold, heat, malaria, infection, &c.; tents, camping ground, transports, transitory depots with their exposures, camp police; organization of hospitals, hospital supplies, regulations of the patriotic service of the capable women offering themselves as nurses; the questions of ambulances, of field service, of extra medical aid, and whatever else relates to the care or cure of the sick and wounded.

Reluctant consent was at last given to the establishment of such a Commission, in a document of which the last paragraph thus expressed the official contempt it excited: "The Commission will exist until the Secretary of War shall otherwise direct, *unless sooner dissolved by its own action.*" It is something to know that there is a circumlocution office across the Atlantic.

Yet at that time the army, suddenly quadrupled, was deficient in the commonest requisites of clothing, bedding, and hospital staff, while the local soldier's aid societies founded in different districts for the succor each of its own peculiar body of volunteers; bewildered by the marchings and countermarchings of the distant regiments, were wasting much good energy. One of the first difficult labors of the Commission was to prove to these local bodies the shortsightedness of their provincial allies, and get them to throw all their resources into the organization of one common national work. One by one the work of woman's love that strove to follow the particular fortunes of brothers and friends was gathered into one great national effort, and the local aid societies became branches of the Commission, with Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted for its secretary, that strove to secure the well-being of the Army, and detect the more unwholesome blots upon its discipline wherever they might be. Influential men in every part of the country now became unpaid advocates of the Commission as "Associate Members;" circulars, setting forth the wants of the Army, were widely diffused; sanitary agitation was kept up; directors of insurance companies were made to understand their interest in the well-being and the health of the volunteer.

Then it was found necessary to break down the exclusiveness of State sovereignty, and, for right organization of the conveyance of the bales provided for use of the sick, establish central depots for districts, determined not by political predilections, but by the course of railways, rivers and canals. One hundred and twenty towns thus became auxiliary to Cleveland in Ohio, and twelve hundred and twenty-six accepted the City of New York as their centre. The Commission sent also sanitary inspectors to the camps and camp hospitals, and has received and tabulated some fifteen hundred of their reports, each consisting of answers to a set of one hundred and eighty printed questions.

Meanwhile, the Government had taken no step towards the organization for war purposes of the Medical Bureau, beyond the appointment of a Surgeon General, who at once pronounced against the Sanitary Commission, and declared that "he would have nothing to do with it;" for it was "a perilous conception to allow any such outside body to come into being." The Commission, however, having been already authorized by Government, he consented to its action for the volunteers, on condition that it never meddled with the regular troops.

This wonderful gentleman confined himself to the maintenance of every old regulation, and resisted every attempt at "innovation" to adapt what might have sufficed for the case of a bush-fighting army of twelve thousand, to the greater needs of a tremendous civil war. So there arose civil war between the Sanitary Commission and the Surgeon General; and the Commission, working by deputations to the Government, complaints from Army officers, and memorials to Congress, procured the passing of a bill, drawn up by its own Executive Committee, reorganizing fundamentally the Medical Department of the Army, appointing a body of General Inspectors, and substituting for the old system of seniority, promotion for competency without regard to grade or age. This victory over routine having been won, the Commission itself sought the most competent man for Surgeon General, and endeavored to forestall any chance of an appointment by favoritism into which the Secretary of War might be tempted. The Commission again won its battle, and secured the promotion of Dr. W. A. Hammond, Assistant Surgeon on the Medical Staff, to the post of Surgeon General, an advance from the rank of first lieutenant, with charge of a single hospital, to that of brigadier general, with the entire control of the Medical Department of the Army. With its own man—a competent man, who had every reason to be grateful to it—thus in authority, the Sanitary Commission had its way made very straight. Dr. Hammond revised his list of subordinates with a bold hand, got rid of the obstructive and incompetent men, and honestly sought the best help in organization of hospitals, foundation of an army medical

school, and so forth. Before the civil war, the United States Army rivalled the Austrian in exclusiveness and firm adherence to routine; and who can tell what tales of pestilence we might have heard, but for the victory thus won on behalf of women's work in time of peril?

A part of the business of the Sanitary Commission was to diffuse gratuitously among the army surgeons, practical pamphlets of information upon military hygiene, and the most important points of army medicine and surgery. Such pamphlets were the "Directions to Army Surgeons on the Battle-field," by our own Guthrie, and the "Advice as to Camping," issued by the British Sanitary Commission at the time of the Crimean War; pamphlets on "Pain and Anæsthetics," and on "Hemorrhage from Wounds, and the best Means of Arresting it," by the father of American surgery, Dr. Valentine Mott; pamphlets on Army vaccination, amputations, treatment of fractures, scurvy, fevers, &c. The largely increased number of Army surgeons had to be drawn from civil life, and really needed information as to the new forms of practice in the field; while everywhere the teachings of Florence Nightingale were actively diffused. Again, over the wide surface of the States involved in war, there was great variation of latitude, and almost every imaginable difference of ground, producing local differences in the character and aspect of disease. Special investigation was made of this subject, not only for the information of the Medical Staff, but as a necessary guide to the right distribution of the requisite supplies.

When, at the beginning of the war, the lines of action corresponded with the course of navigable rivers, floating hospitals accompanied the armies. Here, with perhaps five hundred or a thousand sick soldiers arranged in a single river steamer, well-born American women and some English volunteers were fearless and faithful nurses. Let us see them at work. A lady speaks:

"We were called to go on board the Wissahickon, from thence to the Sea Shore, and run down in the latter to West Point, to bring off twenty-five men said to be lying there sick and destitute. Two doctors went with us. After hunting an hour for the Sea Shore in vain, and having got as low as Cumberland, we decided (*we* being Mrs. —— and I, for the doctors were new and docile, and glad to leave the responsibility upon us women,) to push on to the tug, rather than leave the men another night on the ground, as a heavy storm of wind and rain had been going on all day. The pilot remonstrated, but the captain approved; and if the firemen had not suddenly let out the fires, and detained us two hours, we might have got our men on board and returned comfortably soon after dark. But the delay lost us the precious daylight. It was night before the last man was got on board. There were fifty-six of them—ten *very* sick ones. The boat had a little shelter cabin. As we were laying mattresses on the floor, whilst the doctors were finding the men, the captain stopped us, refusing to let us put typhoid fever below the deck, on account of the crew, he said, and threatened to push off at once from the shore. Mrs. —— and I looked at him. I did the terrible and she the pathetic, and he abandoned the contest. The return passage was rather an anxious one. The river is much obstructed with sunken ships and trees; the night was dark, and we had to feel our way, slackening speed every ten minutes. If we had been alone it wouldn't have mattered; but to have fifty men, unable to move, upon our hands, was too heavy a responsibility not to make us anxious. The captain and pilot said the boat was leaky, and remarked awfully 'that the water was six fathoms deep about there;' but we saw their motive and were not scared. We were safe alongside the Spaulding by midnight; but Mr. Olmsted's tone of voice, as he said, 'You don't know how glad I am to see you," showed how much he had been worried. And yet it was the best thing we could have done, for three, perhaps five, of the men would have been dead before morning. To-day (Sunday,) they are living, and likely to live."

A plan for the swift construction of a good receiving hospital, the notion of great soup caldrons on wheels for feeding the sick and wounded after battle, scrofulous inspection, active agitation and investigation of the question of what is to be done in the future with the disabled soldiers of three years of war, are among the wholesome work of the Commission, which has been able, after every great battle, to dispatch a voluntary contribution of necessaries, in addition to the provision made by the Medical Department of the Army. Thus, after the second battle of Bull Run—when General Pope's army, with a loss of sixteen thousand in killed and wounded, was in retreat—the Confederates had captured forty-three wagon loads of medical stores. Within three days, sixteen wagon loads of drugs and medicines, the gift of the country through the Sanitary Commission, were at the disposal of the army; and at Centerville, on the road from Bull Run to Washington, the Commission's agents served out to the wounded, who came fainting in by hundreds, hot beef tea, soup and bread, and stimulants—gathered them into ambulances or hospitals—and otherwise helped them on to Washington. The Commission has always extended such help alike to friend or foe; the wounded Confederate who has been captured has been simply regarded as a sufferer.

These laborers on behalf of humanity, even work under fire in the field-relief corps that trot up their light wagons with stores, bandages, or other aid to the surgeons, wherever men fall fastest, and after the battle hunt indefatigably for the straggling wounded. The Commission has organized, also, a distinct department of Special Relief for care of the sick among newly-arrived regiments; for providing temporary and gratuitous shelter and food to the soldier honorably discharged, while he is waiting in any city for his papers and his pay; for helping the helpless soldier in any conceivable way, by acting as his unpaid agent, or attorney; for protecting him against sharpers, or getting railway tickets at reduced rates. With such views soldiers' "Homes" have been established throughout the North, and at the principal Home in Washington, about a hundred thousand nights' lodgings, and three or four hundred thousand meals, have been gratuitously provided. The Commission has obtained Homes, too, for its own and the Army's nurses when not in attendance on the sick, or preparing to depart for distant stations. Finally, the Commission charges itself with the duty of seeing that every soldier is decently buried, with a headstone over his grave, and that a record is kept of the place of burial; or, that his body is forwarded to his friends.

The funds that support all this good work are voluntary gifts. The people of California sent, in one sum, the gold of their soil to the value of a hundred thousand pounds English money. Sanitary fairs have been lately held at different towns, at Chicago, Cincinnati, Rochester, Washington, &c. Brooklyn Fair lately contributed four hundred thousand dollars; and from the great fair held at New York, a million dollars were expected.

The Commission works openly; any one who will, may inspect its books. It pays its officers, buys wagons, charters ships, feeds horses and mules, pays rent of offices and warehouses, yet the entire cost of its management is under three per cent. of its income. When, at the battle of Gettysburg, a wagon load of the Commissioners' stores was captured, with three of its agents, the Secretary of the Commission asked and obtained from the Confederate authorities their release, on the ground that they were non-combatants, and that throughout the war "the Sanitary Commission had never made any distinction in its benevolence between friend and foe."

If any one would estimate the value of such work in pursuance of a good example, let him remember that Miss Nightingale and the Crimean Commission found the British army in the East dying from disease at the rate of sixty per cent., or more than half its whole strength, in the year; and that, sanitary care having been taken, the death rate was reduced in the last five months of the campaign to twelve in a thousand! The army was made fifty-two times healthier! Our whole average yearly loss by disease in the Peninsular war, was a hundred and thirteen in a thousand; and the sanitary reforms made by Lord Herbert in the home life of our infantry are saving us now, every year, one life in every hundred men. The whole loss in our army by all diseases has been less in each of the last four years than it used to be from diseases of the lungs alone.

Most nobly have the American people struggled to amend this part of the record of their own disastrous struggle. We read much of sharp trading and selfish grasping, of boots with paper soles, and other cruel dealings of the wooden nutmeg school; but the support given by the American people, (not the American contractors,) to their armies, through the Sanitary Commission, tells a nobler tale. Thus, for example, it may seem a small matter that the Commission makes part of its preventive work to consist in the raising of fresh vegetables for Army use; but without fresh vegetables troops can hardly be saved from scurvy. Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, a distinguished Medical Inspector in the army of Rosencrans, expressed, in a report, his full belief that "one barrel of potatoes per annum is to the Government equal to one man." At one time, when the success of the Western Army, in a hazardous operation, was becoming helpless, by reason of scurvy among the troops, and when the consequent advertisement of a commissary for fifty thousand bushels of potatoes, and a corresponding supply of other vegetables, found no trader able or willing to be responsible for their delivery, the Commission set to work, and, collecting voluntary gifts in kind from the fields and gardens of the districts, supplied gratuitously, within a month, six thousand barrels of fresh vegetables, restored the health of the troops, and so, though a non-combatant, did really, by a brisk discharge of potatoes, change in that campaign the fortune of the war.

HOW BROOKLYN MONEY GOES.

To the Editor of the Brooklyn Union:

The undersigned citizens of Brooklyn and New York, sympathizing deeply with the intense interest that exists in the hearts of our citizens to know to what extent this institution has been enabled to afford aid and comfort to the sick and wounded of the Army of the Potomac, since they crossed the Rapidan, visited the Headquarters of the Commission during their recent visit to Washington, to solicit information as to the details of their labors, &c. Their records

were submitted to us for inspection, and every facility afforded to give us an insight into all the departments of their work. We feel it a duty as well as a privilege to lay before the public the information we thus obtained, especially as in consequence of the engrossing labors of the members—officers and agents of the Commission, night and day, the last three weeks—in providing for the emergency forced upon them, by the series of battles which have occurred, but little official information as to the extent and variety of their labors in behalf of the wounded and sick of our brave defenders has been made public. It is proper to say that we do this without intimation or solicitation from any one, and only because we believe the simple statement of facts communicated to us will give comfort and consolation to many anxious and bleeding hearts.

[The writers here quote entire the letter of Mr. Van Ingen, published in No. 15.]

The following extracts from the diary of one of the principal agents of the Commission at Washington will help the reader to form an idea as to the extent of the supplies furnished by the Commission:

"Monday, May 9.—Reliable information just received that the wounded were to come by way of Belle Plain. The loading of the Rapley, which had been already commenced, was completed, and a barge was chartered to carry horses and wagons.

Tuesday, May 10.—The Mary F. Rapley sailed with from eighty to one hundred tons of stores on board, and sixty relief agents, in charge of Dr. Agnew, Dr. Steiner, and Mayor Fay, of Chelsea. Mrs. Husband and Miss Gillson, who have long served with the army in the field, went also. The Rapley had in tow a barge loaded with twenty-one horses and five large wagons, for transportation of the stores from Belle Plain to the army.

Wednesday, May 11.—Three boat loads of wounded arrived and were fed. The barge Washington was chartered and loaded with sixteen horses, four wagons and forage, and sailed in the afternoon in tow of the tug Governor Curtin. Twenty-four relief agents went down by Government transport. In the afternoon the Rapley returned.

Thursday, May 12.—The Rapley sailed again, having been loaded in the night with from eighty to one hundred tons of stores. Dr. Fairchild went with her, in charge of thirty relief agents.

Friday, May 13.—Twenty relief agents went down in Government boat.

Saturday, May 14.—The steamboat Phœnix chartered, loaded with hospital stores, lumber, and a construction corps to build a small wharf, if needed, and storehouse.

Mr. Knapp went with the Phœnix, in charge of thirty-two relief agents. The schooner Sarah Lavinia was offered to the Commission free of charge, by a citizen of the place, for temporary use, and is being loaded. The Rapley arrived.

Sunday, May 15.—The Rapley loaded again this forenoon and dispatched. The Sarah Lavinia sailed.

Monday, May 16.—The Rapley arrived in the night, was loaded again to-day and sailed. The Phœnix arrived, was reloaded and sent off. The Rapley took down five wagons and twenty horses, besides hospital stores.

Tuesday, May 17.—All quiet.

Wednesday, May 18.—The Rapley arrived last night. The Phœnix also came in. No departures. Horses and wagons being bought to send to-morrow. Dr. Jenkins went to the front.

Thursday, May 19.—The Phœnix and Rapley sailed at about ten o'clock, the former with five wagons and twenty horses, the Rapley loaded with stores only.

A barge was chartered to be loaded with more teams.

Friday, May 20.—The barge sailed with ten wagons and forty horses. Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Agnew returned with the Phœnix.

So much for the work that has been done here, and besides all this our agents have been constantly on the watch at the landing for the Government boats, so as to be ready to feed the wounded as they arrived.

The surgeons of the hospital transports State of Maine and Connecticut expressed their gratitude to the Commission for what had been done on board their boats, the latter saying he did not know what he should have done without the Commission.

Our agents who were at the front say that the wounded at Fredericksburg depend largely and constantly upon the Commission. G. C. C."

On the 21st of May one of our company left Washington with Dr. Knapp, the Assistant Secretary of the Commission, on the steamer Mary F. Rapley, to visit Belle Plain, the base of supplies for our army. On our arrival there in the evening, some four hundred wounded soldiers were being transferred from the ambulance train to the barge, and the agents of the Commission were on hand, distributing to every ambulance all needed supplies of stimulants, food, &c. At six o'clock on the morning of the 22d inst., thirty-one wagons, fully loaded (four horses each) with sanitary stores, left Belle Plain for Fredericksburg. The Sanitary Commission had an ample supply of large tents at Belle Plain for the accommodation of their nurses, agents, and for preparing coffee, stimulants, &c.; for the wounded, in addition to a large barge filled with assorted sanitary stores, and large tents to store their supplies as received from the steamers.

On the evening of the 22d inst., telegrams were received at Belle Plain that the base of supplies would be at once changed to Port Royal. We conclude with extracts showing, in part, the operations of the Commission since the 23d:

SANITARY COMMISSION, CENTRAL OFFICE,
No. 244 F STREET, WASHINGTON, *May* 27, 1864.

"A train of twenty-nine wagons having gone from Belle Plain to Fredericksburg with supplies, the balance of all supplies were loaded on the barges, the tents struck and stored, the wooden feeding station taken down and packed in the hold of the boat, the various lost boxes of the soldiers taken on board, and the Rapley started for Port Royal.

In the meantime, the wounded coming down from Fredericksburg by way of Aquia Creek, were fed there before going on to the boats, and supplies with relief agents put on board each of the boats going to Washington.

On the 24th, the tug-boat Governor Curtin, after carrying additional stores and agents to Aquia Creek for service on the boats of wounded, took the storeboat Kennedy, with eight more relief agents, and started for Port Royal, at 3 P. M., the other barge loaded being in tow of a Government tug.

At Fredericksburg the work of relief continued till May 26th, in the afternoon. The stores were then quite abundant and the numbers needing aid decreasing, yet relief was given each day to many.

The wounded gathered at Falmouth preparatory to taking the cars for Aquia Creek, were cared for day and night, and the suffering unavoidably incident to such a hurried move, greatly alleviated by various ministries.

Some twenty-six horses of the Commission with wagons, were furnished three days since to the Quartermaster to enable him to go out into the "Wilderness" to look up wounded, a report having come in that some of the wounded were still there. These wagons had not returned on the morning of the 26th.

26th.—All the wounded removed from Fredericksburg. A train of wagons is to start for Port Royal. The Kent and Rapley, both chartered by the Commission, run up for Port Royal to Fredericksburg and take on some of the relief corps. The Kent takes on also 100 wounded men.

Others of the relief corps go on two large hospital transports, which are admirably fitted up by Government, as nurses on the trip from Fredericksburg to Washington. At Washington, meantime, a corps of twenty relief agents have been busily at work on the boats running between Aquia Creek and Washington. These boats being called in for temporary service, were not fitted up by Government for transports, and had nothing but hay on board for the comfort of the men; consequently the lemonade, wine, crackers, &c., together with the personal ministrations of our men, were peculiarly serviceable. On most of these boats there were also members of the Christian Commission and of the various relief associations returning from Fredericksburg. They all took hold of the work at hand with cordial good will.

With large stores at Port Royal and more on the way, we wait to-morrow's work. What has been done during the past few days by the relief agents who move with the moving army, I cannot say, as no report has been received from them. They started with wagons well supplied."

When it is understood that the statements made above merely relate to the work of the Sanitary Commission in behalf of the wounded and sick of the Army of the Potomac this month, and that large supplies of sanitary stores have, during the same time, been forwarded to the Army of the Cumberland, Fortress Monroe, and other divisions of our army, the question asked by so many that have not seen Bulletins from the Sanitary Commission, What is the Sanitary Commission doing with their abundant stores at this crisis? is fully answered.

But for the length of this communication, we should take pleasure in enumerating details of the system of the United States Sanitary Commission, the keeping full daily records of all the sick and wounded of our armies received into Hospital at Washington or elsewhere, the time of their reception, date of their discharge, &c., so that by giving the name of any soldier, his regiment and company, full information can at once be obtained, and many an anxious inquiry answered.

We were also much interested in the Lodges and Homes of the Commission, where soldiers, disabled and discharged, or absent on furlough, are accommodated with meals, lodging, &c., while detained to perfect their papers, collect dues from the Government, &c. All back pay and pensions are collected by the Commission, and papers home furnished to the soldier without any charge. The extent of the labors of the Commission in this direction, may be estimated from the fact that the Commission have had, the last year, in all their lodges, at different stations, an average of two thousand soldiers on their hands every night.

We cannot close this report without expressing our gratification at learning of the cordial co-operation between the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. The delegates of the Christian Commission from Brooklyn assure us that all their requisitions for sanitary stores were most readily responded to.

The united testimony of the surgeons, agents, and delegates, of both the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, can leave no doubt that the timely sanitary stores so freely furnished on the front at Fredericksburg, Belle Plain, &c., have saved to their country and friends thousands of lives.

DWIGHT JOHNSON, Brooklyn.
JOSIAH O. LOW, Brooklyn.
GEORGE S. STEPHENSON, Brooklyn.
JOHN J. CRANE, New York.

THE POPE AND THE SANITARY COMMISSION.—A DONATION OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

From the following correspondence it will be seen that a liberal contribution has been received by the General Aid Society in Buffalo from the Pope:

BUFFALO, *May* 17, 1864.

MADAM—The Sovereign Pontiff Pope Pius IX., has, through his Eminence, Cardinal Barnabo, notified me that with the deepest sorrow and with the most fraternal interest he has heard of the number of gallant soldiers wounded in our many battles, and that he desires me to give in his name, and out of his private purse, $500, as some aid to alleviate their sufferings.

Your truly providentially organized society has done very much to aid our wounded soldiers; hence it seems to me that there can be no better means of accomplishing the kind and paternal wish of his Holiness, than to hand over to you this check for $500, with my humble and fervent prayers that God's blessing may not only rest on our gallant wounded soldiers, but also on the honored members of your Commission who aid them so generously.

Accept the expressions of respect and esteem with which

I have the honor to be,
Your most obedient humble servant,
† JOHN,
Bishop of Buffalo.

MRS. HORATIO SEYMOUR,
President of B. U. S. Sanitary Commission.

GENERAL AID SOCIETY FOR THE ARMY,
BUFFALO, *May* 18, 1864.

RT. REV. JOHN TIMON:

DEAR SIR—It is with no ordinary feelings we acknowledge the receipt at your hands of $500 from the Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Pius IX., for the relief of our wounded soldiers. Large contributions have been received from foreign countries for this humane object. We are deeply touched by such evidences of interest in our present struggle for national life, and the indorsement of this national channel for our charities, which we believe to be the most direct, humane, and efficient one through which the good will of a Christian people can be conveyed to the wounded patriots in field or hospital. Please present our thanks to his Holiness, and accept, for your part in this munificent act, the grateful acknowledgments of the society. With sentiments of the highest regard,

Yours truly,
MRS. HORATIO SEYMOUR.
President.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARMY.

[The following lines are from the pen of the Author of "A Rainy Day in Camp," as also of those exquisite verses on the "Death of a Massachusetts Sergeant," which we published a few weeks ago. Many of our readers are doubtless already familiar with this "Message from the Army," but it derives a fresh and touching interest from the fact that the gifted writer is no more. There can be no harm now in according her the honor, which, while living, she always shrank from claiming, by saying that it is to the late Mrs. Robert S. Howland that we are indebted for it. She was one of the most earnest, enthusiastic and accomplished laborers for the Metropolitan Fair, and we almost fear, we may add, one of its victims. Her interest in the war, and in the welfare of the army, was intense, but most of the many good deeds in which it was manifested, were done so quickly and unobtrusively, as almost to make them secret.]

OH, FRIENDS! our soldier-hearts cry out
From all the far-off camps;
From lonely watch-fires in the West,
From Southern woods and swamps.

Wherever in their windy tents
Brave boys are gathering,
There, sun-browned faces smile, and bless
Your Christ-like ministering.

Blow! blow, March winds! from mountain forts,
From gulf and river banks;
And carry to those Northern homes
Our thousand, thousand thanks!

And *we* who lie in narrow beds
All over the sad land—
From stricken rows, in dreary wards
We stretch a pallid hand,

And grasp the palm whose clasp we know—
The generous, tender palm!
Whose every touch on heart and head
Is spice, and oil, and balm!

And we whose beds are narrower yet,
Beneath the sun and rain;
Who never more may carry arms
Though spring has come again.

We too would tell how loving hands
Shut down our dying eyes,
And send a blessing from the dead
On all your sacrifice!

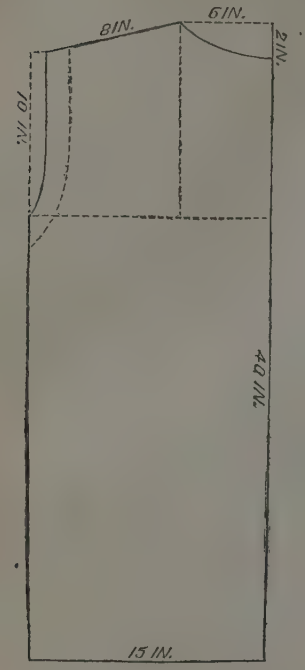
Oh earnest hearts! oh generous hands!
What better thanks can be
Than His, who said—"When I was sick
Ye came to visit Me!"

Work on! Pray on!—No heart may faint,
No hand shall work in vain,
Soon Pain shall conquer us a Peace
And Peace shall heal our Pain.

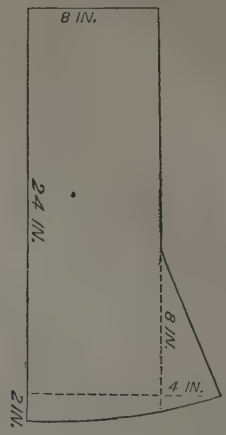
March, 1864.

HOSPITAL COTTON SHIRT.

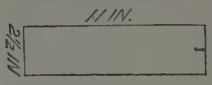
HALF OF FRONT.



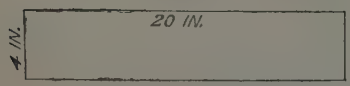
HALF OF SLEEVE.



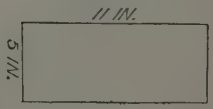
SHOULDER PIECE.



COLLAR.



WRISTBAND.



Required for each Shirt.

5 white bone buttons, (3 for front, 2 for sleeves.)

4 tape stays, 1 inch long, (for flaps and opening of sleeves.)

2 skeins thread.

The back of the shirt is cut by the same pattern as the front, though not sloped quite so much on the neck.

The opening in front is 15 inches long, faced on one side with cotton 2 inches wide, and hemmed on the other. The shirt is gathered into the collar both in front and behind.

The shoulder-pieces are faced under the shoulder seams, and cut down one inch at one end, as per diagram, to fit under the collar.

The arm sizes are strengthened with binders 2 inches wide, cut circular, as per dotted line in diagram. The sleeve is gathered into the wristband and gathered a little at the top.

Two gussets are added to each sleeve, as per diagram. The flaps are two fingers long.

The above pattern is for cotton one yard wide. After the front, back and sleeves have been cut out, a strip 6 inches wide will be left, out of which can be cut all the small pieces. Cut in this way it will take less than three yards of cotton.

Hospital Cotton Drawers.

Cotton drawers should be cut by the same pattern as flannel drawers, (for which, see BULLETIN, No. 13.) The pattern should be laid on the cloth in the same manner, the smallest part of one leg to the smallest part of the other, leaving a piece on each side for the double waistbands.

The diagrams allow for seams.

N. B.—Owing to blurred type, the dimensions on the lower line of diagram for flannel drawers, in No. 13 of the BULLETIN, are illegible. They should read 18 *inches*.

WESTERN SCENES, No. 3.

"WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY."

In nothing is this more strikingly exemplified, than in the history of the cause of hospital relief. While indolence, selfishness and disloyalty intrench themselves behind frivolous excuses, to shield them from doing their duty towards our sick and wounded soldiers, the generous, active and patriotic are fertile in inventions to obtain means for their relief, and glory in labors and sacrifices that carry plenty and comfort to the hospitals.

Some two or three months ago, a poor girl, a seamstress, came to the rooms of the Chicago Sanitary Commission. "I do not feel right," she said, "that I am doing nothing for our soldiers in the hospitals, and have resolved to do *something* immediately. Which do you prefer—that I should give money, or buy material and manufacture it into garments?"

"You must be guided by your circumstances," was the answer made her; "we need both money and supplies, and you must do that which is most convenient for you."

"I prefer to give you money, if it will do as much good."

"Very well; then give money, which we need badly, and without which we cannot do what is most necessary for our brave sick men."

"Then I will give you the entire earnings of the next two weeks. I'd give more, but I have to help support my mother, who is an invalid. Generally, I make but one vest a day, but I will work earlier and later these next two weeks."

In two weeks she came again, the poor sewing girl, her face radiant with the consciousness of philanthropic intent. Opening her port-monnaie, she counted out—how much do you think, readers of the *New Covenant?—nineteen dollars and thirty-seven cents!* Every penny was earned by the slow needle, and she had stitched away into the hours of midnight, on every one of the working days of the week. We call that an instance of patriotism married to generosity.

Some farmers' wives in the north of Wisconsin, eighteen miles from a railroad, had given to the Commission of their bed and table linen, their husbands' shirts and drawers, their scanty supply of dried and canned fruits, till they had exhausted their ability to do more in this direction. Still they were not satisfied. So they cast about to see what could be done in another way. They were all the wives of small farmers, lately moved to the West, living all in log cabins, where one room sufficed for kitchen, parlor, laundry, nursery and bed-room, doing their own house-work, sewing, baby-tending, dairy-work and all. What *could* they do?

They were not long in devising a way to gratify the longings of their motherly and patriotic hearts, and instantly set about carrying it into action. They resolved to beg wheat of the neighboring farmers, and convert it into money. Sometimes on foot, and sometimes with a team, amid the snows and mud of early spring, they canvassed the country for twenty and twenty-five miles around, everywhere eloquently pleading the needs of the blue-coated soldier boys in the hospitals, the eloquence everywhere acting as an *open sesame* to the granaries. Now they obtained a little from a rich man, and then a great deal from a poor man—deeds of benevolence are half the time in an inverse ratio to the ability of the benefactors—till they had accumulated nearly five hundred bushels of wheat. This they sent to market, obtained the highest market price for it, and forwarded the proceeds to the Commission. As we held this hard-earned money in our hands, we felt that it was consecrated—that the holy purpose of these noble women had imparted an almost sacredness to it.

A little girl not nine years old, with sweet and timid grace, came into the rooms of the Commission, and laying a five dollar gold piece on our desk, half frightened, told us its history. "My uncle gave me that before the war, and I was going to keep it always; but he's got killed in the army, and mother says now I may give it to the soldiers if I want to—and I'd like to do so. I don't suppose it will buy much for them—will it?"

We led the child to the storeroom, and proceeded to show her how valuable her gift was, by pointing out what it would buy—so many cans of condensed milk, or so many bottles of ale, or pounds of tea, or codfish, &c. Her face brightened with pleasure. But when we explained to her that her five dollar gold piece was equal to seven dollars and a half in greenbacks, and told her how much comfort we had been enabled to carry into a hospital with as small an amount of stores as that sum would purchase, she fairly danced for joy. "Oh, it will do lots of good, won't it?" And folding her hands earnestly before her, she begged in her charmingly modest way, "Please tell me something that you've seen in the hospitals." A narration of a few touching events, not such as would too severely shock the little creature, but which plainly showed the necessity of continued benevolence to the hospitals, filled her sweet eyes with tears, and drew from her the resolution "to save all her money, and to get all the girls to do so, to buy things for the wounded soldiers." And away she flew, revelling in the luxury of doing good, and

happy in the formation of a good resolution.

A ragged little urchin, who thrusts his unkempt pate daily into the rooms, with the shrill cry of "Matches! matches!" had stood watching the little girl, and listening to the talk. As she disappeared, he fumbled in his ragged pocket, and drew out a small handful of crumbled and soiled postal currency. "Here," said he, "I'll give you so much, for them ere sick fellers in the hospitals," and he put fifty-five cents into our hand, all in five cent currency. We hesitated. "No, my boy, don't give it. You're a noble little fellow, but I'm afraid you can't afford to give so much. You keep it, and I'll give the fifty-five cents, or somebody else will."

"Oh, no," he replied, "you keep it. P'raps I ain't so poor as yer think. My father, he saws wood, and my mother, she takes in washin', and I sells matches—and p'raps we've got more money than yer think. Keep it!" And he turned his dirty, but earnest face up to us with a most beseeching look. "Keep it—do!"

We took the crumbled currency—we forgot the dirty face and the tattered cap—we forgot that we called the little scamp a "nuisance" every day for months, when he had made us fairly jump from our seat with his shrill, unexpected cry of "Matches! matches!" and made a dive at him, to kiss him. But he was too quick for us, and darted out of the room, as if he had been shot. Ever since, when he meets us, he gives us a wide berth, and walks off the sidewalk into the gutter, eyeing us with a suspicious, sidelong glance, as though he suspected we still meditated kissing intentions towards him. If we speak to him, he looks at us shyly, and offers no reply—but if we pass him without speaking, he challenges us with a hearty "halloo, you!" that brings us to a halt instantly.

Had we space, we might continue similar narrations through half a dozen columns. All who will, can do *something* for our poor boys in hospitals. If it be little, "mony a mickle makes a muckle"—and if it be much, it will cause the blessing of many ready to perish to come on the donor. But all can do SOMETHING. "Where there's a will, there's a way."—*From the New Covenant.*

NOTES ON NURSING.

CLEANLINESS OF ROOMS AND WALLS.

It cannot be necessary to tell a nurse that she should be clean, or that she should keep her patient clean, seeing that the greater part of nursing consists in preserving cleanliness. No ventilation can freshen a room or ward where the most scrupulous cleanliness is not observed. Unless the wind be blowing through the windows at the rate of twenty miles an hour, dusty carpets, dirty wainscots, musty curtains and furniture, will infallibly produce a close smell. I have lived in a large and expensively furnished London house, where the only constant inmate in two very lofty rooms, with opposite windows, was myself, and yet, owing to the above-mentioned dirty circumstances, no opening of windows could ever keep those rooms free from closeness; but the carpet and curtains having been turned out of the rooms altogether, they became instantly as fresh as could be wished. It is pure nonsense to say that in London a room cannot be kept clean. Many of our hospitals show the exact reverse.

But no particle of dust is ever or can ever be removed or really got rid of by the present system of dusting. Dusting in these days means nothing but flapping the dust from one part of a room on to another with doors and windows closed. What you do it for I cannot think. You had much better leave the dust alone, if you are not going to take it away altogether. For from the time a room begins to be a room up to the time when it ceases to be one, no one atom of dust ever actually leaves its precincts. Tidying a room means nothing now but removing a thing from one place, which it has kept clean for itself, on to another and a dirtier one. Flapping, by way of cleaning, is only admissible in the case of pictures, or any thing made of paper. The only way I know to *remove* dust, the plague of all lovers of fresh air, is to wipe every thing with a damp cloth. And all furniture ought to be so made as that it may be wiped with a damp cloth without injury to itself, and so polished as that it may be damped without injury to others. To dust, as it is now practised, truly means to distribute dust more equally over a room.

As to floors, the only really clean floor I know is the Berlin *lackered* floor, which is wet rubbed and dry rubbed every morning to remove the dust. The French *parquet* is always more or less dusty, although infinitely superior, in point of cleanliness and healthiness, to our absorbent floor.

For a sick room, a carpet is perhaps the worst expedient which could by any possibility have been invented. If you must have a carpet, the only safety is to take it up two or three times a year, instead of once. A dirty carpet literally infects the room. And if you consider the enormous quantity of organic matter from the feet of people coming in, which must saturate it, this is by no means surprising.

As for walls, the worst is the papered wall; the next worst is plaster. But the plaster can be redeemed by frequent lime washing; the paper requires frequent renewing. A glazed paper gets rid of a good deal of the danger. But the ordinary bed-room paper is all that it ought *not* to be.

The close connection between ventilation and cleanliness is shown in this. An ordinary light paper will last clean much longer if there is an Arnott's ventilator in the chimney than it otherwise would.

The best wall now extant is oil paint. From this you can wash the animal exuvæ.

These are what make a room musty.

The best wall for a sick room or ward that could be made is pure white non-absorbent cement or glass, or glazed tiles, if they were made slightly enough.

Air can be soiled just like water. If you blow

into water you will soil it with the animal matter from your breath. So it is with air. Air is always soiled in a room where walls and carpets are saturated with animal exhalations.

Want of cleanliness, then, in rooms and wards, which you have to guard against, may arise in three ways:

1. Dirty air coming in from without, soiled by sewer emanations, the evaporation from dirty streets, smoke, bits of unburnt fuel, bits of straw, bits of horse dung.

If people would but cover the outside walls of their houses with plain or encaustic tiles what an incalculable improvement would there be in light, cleanliness, dryness, warmth, and consequently economy. The play of a fire engine would then effectually wash the outside of a house. This kind of *walling* would stand next to paving in improving the health of towns.

2. Dirty air coming from within, from dust, which you often displace, but never remove. And this recalls what ought to be a *sine qua non*. Have as few ledges in your room or ward as possible. And under no pretence have any ledge whatever out of sight. Dust accumulates there, and will never be wiped off. This is a certain way to soil the air. Besides this, the animal exhalations from your inmates saturate your furniture. And if you never clean your furniture properly, how can your rooms or wards be anything but musty? Ventilate as you please, the rooms will never be sweet. Besides this, there is a constant *degradation*, as it is called, taking place from everything except polished or glazed articles—*e. g.*, in coloring certain green papers arsenic is used. Now in the very dust even, which is lying about in rooms hung with this kind of green paper, arsenic has been distinctly detected. You see your dust is anything but harmless; yet you will let such dust lie about your ledges for months, your rooms for ever.

Again, the fire fills the room with coal-dust.

3. Dirty air coming from the carpet. Above all, take care of the carpets, that the animal dirt left there by the feet of visitors does not stay there. Floors, unless the grain is filled up and polished, are just as bad. The smell from the floor of a school-room or ward, when any moisture brings out the organic matter by which it is saturated, might alone be enough to warn us of the mischief that is going on.

The outer air, then, can only be kept clean by sanitary improvements, and by consuming the smoke. The expense in soap, which this single improvement would save, is quite incalculable.

The inside air can only be kept clean by excessive care in the ways mentioned above—to rid the walls, carpets, furniture, ledges, &c., of the organic matter and dust—dust consisting greatly of this organic matter—with which they become saturated, and which is what really makes the room musty.

Without cleanliness, you cannot have all the effect of ventilation; without ventilation, you can have no thorough cleanliness.

Very few people, be they of what class they may, have any idea of the exquisite cleanliness required in the sick-room. For much of what I have said applies less to the hospital than to the private sick room. The smoky chimney, the dusty furniture, the utensils emptied but once a day, often keep the air of the sick room constantly dirty in the best private houses.

The well have a curious habit of forgetting that what is to them but a trifling inconvenience, to be patiently "put up" with, is to the sick room a source of suffering, delaying recovery, if not actually hastening death. The well are scarcely ever more than eight hours, at most, in the same room. Some change they can always make, if only for a few minutes. Even during the supposed eight hours, they can change their posture or their position in the room. But the sick man who never leaves his bed, who cannot change by any movement of his own his air, or his light, or his warmth; who cannot obtain quiet, or get out of the smoke, or the smell, or the dust; he is really poisoned or depressed by what is to you the merest trifle.

"What can't be cured must be endured," is the very worst and most dangerous maxim for a nurse which ever was made. Patience and resignation in her are but other words for carelessness or indifference—contemptible, if in regard to herself; culpable, if in regard for the sick.

PERSONAL CLEANLINESS.

In almost all diseases, the function of the skin is, more or less, disordered; and in many most important diseases nature relieves herself almost entirely by the skin. This is particularly the case with children. But the excretion, which comes from the skin, is left there, unless removed by washing or by the clothes. Every nurse should keep this fact constantly in mind—for, if she allow her sick to remain unwashed, or their clothing to remain on them after being saturated with perspiration or other excretion, she is interfering injuriously with the natural processes of health just as effectually as if she were to give the patient a dose of slow poison by the mouth. Poisoning by the skin is no less certain than poisoning by the mouth—only it is slower in its operation.

The amount of relief and comfort experienced by sick after the skin has been carefully washed and dried, is one of the commonest observations made at a sick bed. But it must not be forgotten that the comfort and relief so obtained are not all. They are, in fact nothing more than a sign that the vital powers have been relieved by removing something that was oppressing them. The nurse, therefore, must never put off attending to the personal cleanliness of her patient under the plea that all that is to be gained is a little relief, which can be quite as well given later.

In all well-regulated hospitals this ought to be, and generally is, attended to. But it is very generally neglected with private sick.

Just as it is necessary to renew the air round a sick person frequently, to carry off morbid effluvia from the lungs and skin, by maintaining free ventilation, so it is necessary to keep the pores of the skin free from all obstructing excretions. The object, both of ventilation and of skin-cleanliness, is pretty much the same—to wit, removing noxious matter from the system as rapidly as possible.

Care should be taken in all these operations of sponging, washing, and cleansing the skin, not to expose too great a surface at once, so as

to check the perspiration, which would renew the evil in another form.

The various ways of washing the sick need not here be specified—the less so as the doctors ought to say which is to be used.

In several forms of diarrhea, dysentery, &c., where the skin is hard and harsh, the relief afforded by washing with a great deal of soft soap is incalculable. In other cases, sponging with tepid soap and water, then with tepid water and drying with a hot towel will be ordered.

Every nurse ought to be careful to wash her hands very frequently during the day. If her face too, so much the better.

One word as to cleanliness merely as cleanliness.

Compare the dirtiness of the water in which you have washed when it is cold without soap, cold with soap, hot with soap. You will find the first has hardly removed any dirt at all, the second a little more, the third a great deal more. But hold your hand over a cup of hot water for a minute or two, and then, by merely rubbing with the finger, you will bring off flakes of dirt or dirty skin. After a vapor bath you may peel your whole self clean in this way. What I mean is, that by simply washing or sponging with water you do not really clean your skin. Take a rough towel, dip one corner in very hot water—if a little spirit be added to it it will be more effectual—and then rub as if you were rubbing the towel into your skin with your fingers. The black flakes which will come off will convince you that you were not clean before, however much soap and water you have used. These flakes are what require removing. And you can really keep yourself cleaner with a tumbler of hot water and a rough towel and rubbing, than with a whole apparatus of bath and soap and sponge, without rubbing. It is quite nonsense to say that anybody need be dirty. Patients have been kept as clean by these means on a long voyage, when a basin full of water could not be afforded, and when they could not be moved out of ther berths, as if all the appurtenances of home had been at hand.

Washing, however, with a large quantity of water has quite other effects than those of mere cleanliness. The skin absorbs the water and becomes softer and more perspirable. To wash with soap and soft water is, therefore, desirable from other points of view than that of cleanliness.

CHATTERING HOPES AND ADVICES.

The sick man to his advisers.

"My advisers! Their name is legion. * * * Somehow or other, it seems a provision of the universal destinies, that every man, woman and child should consider him, her, or itself privileged especially to advise me. Why? That is precisely what I want to know." And this is what I have to say to them. I have been advised to go to every place extant in and out of England—to take every kind of exercise by every kind of cart, carriage—yes, and even swing (!) and dumbbell (!) in existence; to imbibe every different kind of stimulant that ever has been invented. And this when those *best* fitted to know, viz., medical men, after long and close attendance, had declared any journey out of the question, had prohibited any kind of motion whatever, had closely laid down the diet and drink. What would my advisers say, were they the medical attendants, and I the patient left their advice, and took the casual adviser's? But the singularity in Legion's mind is this: it never occurs to him that everybody else is doing the same thing, and that I the patient *must* perforce say, in sheer self-defence, like Rosalind, "I could not do with all."

"Chattering Hopes" may seem an odd heading. But I really believe there is scarcely a greater worry which invalids have to endure than the incurable hopes of their friends. There is no one practice against which I can speak more strongly from actual personal experience, wide and long, of its effects during sickness, observed both upon others and upon myself. I would appeal most seriously to all friends, visitors, and attendants of the sick to leave off this practice of attempting to "cheer" the sick by making light of their danger and by exaggerating their probabilities of recovery.

Far more now than formerly does the medical attendant tell the truth to the sick who are really desirous to hear it about their own state.

How intense is the folly, then, to say the least of it, of the friend, be he even a medical man, who thinks that his opinion, given after a cursory observation, will weigh with the patient, against the opinion of the medical attendant, given, perhaps, after years of observation, after using every help to diagnosis afforded by the stethoscope, the examination of pulse, tongue, &c.; and certainly after much more observation than the friend can possibly have had.

Supposing the patient to be possessed of common sense, how can the "favorable" opinion, if it is to be called an opinion at all, of the casual visitor "cheer" him, when different from that of the experienced attendant? Unquestionably the latter may, and often does, turn out to be wrong. But which is most likely to be wrong?

The fact is, that the patient is not "cheered" at all by these well-meaning, most tiresome friends. On the contrary, he is depressed and wearied. If, on the one hand, he exerts himself to tell each successive member of this too numerous conspiracy, whose name is legion, why he does not think as they do—in what respect he is worse—what symptoms exist that they know nothing of—he is fatigued instead of "cheered," and his attention is fixed upon himself. In general, patients who are really ill do not want to talk about themselves. Hypochondriacs do, but again I say we are not on the subject of hypochondriacs.

If, on the other hand, and which is much more frequently the case, the patient says nothing, but the Shakespearian "Oh!" "Ah!" "Go to!" and "In good sooth!" in order to escape from the conversation about himself the sooner, he is depressed by want of sympathy. He feels isolated in the midst of friends. He feels what a convenience it would be, if there were any single person to whom he could speak simply and openly, without pulling the string upon himself of this shower-bath of silly hopes and encouragements; to whom he could express his wishes and directions without that person persisting in saying, "I hope that it will please God yet to give you twenty years," or, "You

have a long life of activity before you." How often we see at the end of biographies, or of cases recorded in medical papers, "after a long illness A. died rather suddenly," or, "unexpectedly both to himself and to others." "Unexpectedly" to others, perhaps, who did not see, because they did not look; but by no means "unexpectedly to himself," as I feel entitled to believe, both from the internal evidence in such stories, and from watching similar cases; there was every reason to expect that A. would die, and he knew it; but he found it useless to insist upon his own knowledge to his friends.

In these remarks I am alluding neither to acute cases which terminate rapidly nor to "nervous" cases.

By the first, much interest in their own danger is very rarely felt. In writings of fiction, whether novels or biographies, these death-beds are generally depicted as almost seraphic in lucidity of intelligence. Sadly large has been my experience in death-beds, and I can only say that I have seldom or never seen such. Indifference, excepting with regard to bodily suffering, or to some duty the dying man desires to perform, is the far more usual state.

The "nervous case," on the other hand, delights in figuring to himself and others a fictitious danger.

But the long chronic case, who knows too well himself, and who has been told by his physician that he will never enter active life again, who feels that every month he has to give up something he could do the month before—oh! spare such sufferers your chattering hopes. You do not know how you worry and weary them. Such real sufferers cannot bear to talk of themselves, still less to hope for what they cannot at all expect.

So also as to all the advice showered so profusely upon such sick, to leave off some occupation, to try some other doctor, some other house, climate, pill, powder, or specific; I say nothing of the inconsistency—for these advisers are sure to be the same persons who exhorted the sick man not to believe his own doctor's prognostics, because "doctors are always mistaken," but to believe some other doctor, because "this doctor is always right." Sure also are these advisers to be the persons to bring the sick man fresh occupation, while exhorting him to leave his own.

Wonderful is the face with which friends, lay and medical, will come in and worry the patient with recommendations to do something or other, having just as little knowledge as to its being feasible, or even safe for him, as if they were to recommend a man to take exercise, not knowing he had broken his leg. What would the friend say, if *he* were the medical attendant, and if the patient, because some *other* friend had come in, because somebody, anybody, nobody, had recommended something, anything, nothing, were to disregard *his* orders, and take that other body's recommendation? But people never think of this.

To me these commonplaces, leaving their smear upon the cheerful, single-hearted, constant devotion to duty, which is so often seen in the decline of such sufferers, recall the slimy trail left by the snail on the sunny southern garden-wall loaded with fruit.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
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Being Sole Awards gained by anything of the kind. It also received Superlative Report of

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MAIZENA,

At the GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION at HAMBURG, July, 1863, received the highest Prize Medal for its great delicacy as an article of food.

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"MAIZENA" has never failed to receive the highest award when placed in competition with Corn Starch and all articles of like character, after a thorough Microscopical and Analytical Examination of disinterested judges. It therefore stands commended to the public as the best article of its kind in the world without any comments of the manufacturer.

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For Puddings, Cakes, Custards, Blanc Mange, &c., without isinglass, with few or no eggs, at a cost astonishing the most economical. It is also excellent for thickening sweet sauces, gravies for fish and meat, soups, &c. For Ice Cream, nothing can compare with it. A little boiled in milk will produce rich cream for Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, &c.

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OFFICE OF THE

Columbian (Marine) Insurance COMPANY,

CORNER OF WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - $1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, RETURNS IN CASH, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY, as follows:

1st. Upon all VOYAGE Risks upon CARGO, a return of TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

2d. Upon VOYAGE Risks upon FREIGHT, a return of TWENTY PER CENT.

3d. Upon TIME Risks upon FREIGHT, and upon VOYAGE and TIME Risks upon HULLS, a return of TEN PER CENT.

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

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NORTH AMERICAN
Fire Insurance Company,

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

OFFICE, No. 114 BROADWAY.

INCORPORATED 1823.

CASH CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, {May 1, 1864,} $675,014 13.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned	$173,160 00
Stocks, Bonds and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	365,960 00
Cash in Bank and Office	24,232 15
Loans on demand with collaterals	71,400 00
Premiums due and outstanding	3,820 81
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission [business of April received]	13,491 57
Interest accrued on Securities	21,684 60
Other Property of Company	1,205 00
	$675,014 13
Losses unadjusted	$10,500 00

Insures Property against Loss or Damage by Fire at usual rates, and returns three-fourths of the net Profits, each year, to the Assured.

Policies Issued and Losses paid at the Office of the Company, or at its various Agencies in the principal cities in the United States.

JAMES W. OTIS, President.

R. W. BLEECKER, Secretary.

R. F. MASON, Sup't Agencies.